A DAILY COMMERCIAL, published by the Commercial Printing Company, corner Fifth and Smithfield street, opposite Postoffice.

RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

TERMS OF THE DAILY: Single copy, 2 cents; delivered by carriers, (per week) 15 cents; subscribers (if per year, $10 00, postage pre-paid.

Communications designed for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

Letters on Business, Subscription, &c., should be addressed to the COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

The Weekly Commercial, a large sheet containing all the Current News, Miscellaneous, Literary and Scientific Intelligence, and Valuable Reading for the family.

TERMS OF THE WEEKLY: Per Year ($2 in advance), or in Clubs of Twenty and over $1 25, postage paid; one copy gratis to the getter up of the Club. In remitting, state if charge accompanying the Order, as no discount can thereforeafter be deducted from. Postmasters are requested to act as Agents.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XIII.—NO. 20. WEEKLY EDITION. MARCH 25, 1876.

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HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 16, 1876.

SENATE.

Bills Passed Finally—Defining the rights and obligations of corporations organized under the laws of other States, with reference to foreclosures or sales of mortgages or liens; to the counties of the Commonwealth making said detective powers conferred on constables, &c.

A supplement to an act, entitled "An act relating to the assessment of damages arising from the opening of roads and highways and the construction of bridges," approved May 14, A. D. 1874.

A supplement to an act, entitled "An act declaring what offices are incompatible," approved May 15, A. D. 1874.

The joint resolution passed appropriating $257 to pay the expenses of the Governor's inauguration.

The act prescribing the manner in which the Councils of cities may pass ordinances authorizing the grading and paving of streets, alleys, roads or public ways, and the construction of sewers or bridges, was defeated.

The bill relating to the exemption of property from levy and sale on execution and distress for rent, declaring the waiver thereof by a debtor, except in certain cases, void, was indefinitely postponed.

The Governor sent the following nominations of notaries public to the Senate for confirmation: R. S. Richards, Pittsburgh; Robert M. Holland, Bradddocks, Allegheny county; Eli McCormick, Irwin, Westmoreland county; George Plummer, West Newton, Westmoreland county.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Stotzer introduced a resolution providing for the appointment of a free commission to correct the orthography of the laws of Pennsylvania. This action was predicated on the late action of the American Philological Association and the request of Professor Marsh, of Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., and other philologists of the State. The resolution was sent to the Committee on Education.

Petitions from over three thousand women of Pennsylvania were presented asking the Legislature to appoint a commission of inquiry to investigate and report upon the effects of the alcoholic liquor traffic; second, to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks; third, if they may not be, to enact that no license to sell intoxicating drinks be issued, except when majority of the women residents, as well as the men, desire it.

Mr. Irwin introduced a bill making an appropriation for the Homeopathic Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Long introduced a bill confirming titles acquired from aliens or corporations.

Bills Passed Finally—Repealing an act relative to communities in Montgomery, Northampton county, approved the 15th day of February, 1870.

A further supplement to an act to provide for the admission of certain classes of insane into hospitals for the insane in this Commonwealth and their discharge therefrom, approved April 20, 1869.

Mr. Long offered a resolution fixing Thursday next for the consideration of the Boom bill.

Adjourned.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 20, 1876.

SENATE.

A resolution was offered providing for the adjournment of the Senate from tomorrow (Tuesday), at one P. M. until Thursday morning next, at ten o'clock, which was agreed to.

Mr. Newmyer's bill classifying property for the purposes of taxation in cities of the second class, was called up by him and passed first reading.

An evening session was taken up by the passage of bills on first reading.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at 8 P. M.

Mr. Huhn submitted a resolution appointing a committee of five to investigate the affairs of the Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York Railroad, which was referred to the Railroad Committee.

Mr. Lusk offered the following against the repeal of the Iron Clad Liquor law of Mercer county.

Mr. Christy offered the following:

In the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met:

The petition of the subscribers, citizens of the Commonwealth, respectfully showeth that:

WHEREAS, The fundamental law of this State has been enacted for the purpose of affording to the people of the State the best and the primary duty of lawmakers is to pass such acts and such measures as will enable them to not only avail themselves of this benefits, but to put themselves under the protection of the Constitution and laws of the State, and

WHEREAS, It is asserted, and within the knowledge of many, that charters which have been granted are being constantly and wilfully violated, and the authority of the State set at defiance, to the enrichment of the few and to the oppression of the many; and

WHEREAS, Many corporations, and notably the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, are combining with corporations outside of this State and conspiring among themselves to exact from citizens of the State rates of freight not only exorbitant and unjustifiable, but in many cases, by reason of which many millions of dollars have been lost to the citizens of the State and many thousands of them forced to idleness and consequent beggary; and

WHEREAS, These corporations under a delusion, declare that they are not bound to recognize the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and assuming to be outside the pale of constitutional law, are bringing ruin upon many producing, manufacturing and mercantile classes, and driving some of the most important branches of our industries through unnatural channels out of this State, to the great damage of a large majority of our citizens.

We therefore respectfully ask, that a committee of the Senate and House be appointed to investigate the workings of the Pennsylvania Railroad and its combinations and associations, and that said committee have authority to send for persons and papers by subpœna and compel attendance, and that they be empowered and instructed to issue writs of *quo warranto* and determine at once the status of the said Pennsylvania Railroad Company under the Constitution of the Commonwealth, and if it be found that said corporation shall have been violating the Constitution or laws of this State, directly or indirectly, by its own motion or by aid of collateral parties, that then its character shall be declared forfeited; and, furthermore, that the inalienable rights of the citizens of this Commonwealth, as well as its Constitution and laws, shall be declared paramount to the charter of any corporation whatsoever. And your petitioners will ever pray," &c.

[Signed] L. PETERSON, JR. & Co.,
LEE & MARSHALL,
GEORGE A. KELLY & Co.,
WM. S. EVANS & Co.,
HOLDSHIP & IRWIN,
MILLS, KING & Co.,
J. G. KIRKPATRICK & Co.,
OLIVER MCCLINTOCK & Co.,
HUGUS & HACKE,
BRUSH & LYONS,
and many others.

The resolution was referred to the Railroad Committee.

Mr. Christy asked leave to read the following bill in place, explanations being made, it lies over for the present:

Joint resolution providing for a special committee to make an investigation into the affairs of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The bill provides for a special committee of five members from each House to investigate said railroad so far as relates to its management, its combination with transportation companies and its unjust discriminations in the transportation of coal, grain, oil and other merchandise.

A large petition was offered asking for the repeal of the prohibitory law for North and South Fayette townships, Allegheny county.

Mr. Lusk offered a resolution providing for sessions of the House hereafter on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. As the resolution involves a change of the rules of the *House*, it has to lie over one day.

Mr. Foster offered a resolution that the House adjourn over from six P. M. to-morrow (Tuesday) until Thursday morning next, at 10 o'clock, to allow the Democrats to attend the State Convention at Lancaster on Wednesday. Agreed to.

Adjourned.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 15, 1876.

Your Washington correspondent has been misled into stating that Messrs. Strang and Davis, of the Pennsylvania Senate, had visited Washington on Saturday last and were closeted with Secretary Bristow. The gentlemen spoken of paid no such visit, and were not in Washington at that time on that or any other mission.

The proceedings in both Houses, to-day, were of the most tame character. In the Senate business was confined mainly to bills on second reading. The Senate passed a large number of bills on second reading, nearly all being Senate bills. The House having fixed March 24th as the last date at which bills will be received, and the Senate having fixed April 1st for the same purpose, each House is striving to get all its own bills over to the other before the limitation expires. There is consequently a slim chance for any legislation now first introduced.

Mr. Newmyer introduced to-day a bill to take the place of the act declaring the Judge White to be unconstitutional, providing for the classification of real estate for taxation in cities of the second class and for the appointment of assessors. The new bill differs from the other mainly in transferring the appointment of assessors from the courts to the city Councils.

A bill to authorize the directors of associations for the suppression of horse-thieving to act as constables in the arrest of horse thieves, was amended in Senate so as to require them give bond as constables are required to do, and by striking out the authority to arrest without warrant. In some parts of the State this crime is so prevalent that the ordinary power of the law is insufficient to check it.

The bill to change the classifying of cities so as to create five classes instead of three, passed the Senate as it came from the House. Under the new classification Allegheny city will stand alone as a city of the third class.

An important bill passed third reading in the Senate, to extend the term of assessors of property, hereafter elected, to three years, instead of one, as now. It provides that the assessors elected in February, 1877, shall hold their offices from the first Monday in April of that year to the Monday succeeding the annual election in November, 1880, when the terms of those elected in February, 1880, shall begin, and that the terms of those elected in 1880, and every third year thereafter, shall be three years from the beginning of their terms in the November following their election. This changes the act of last year, regulating the time at which the terms of ward, borough, township and city officers shall begin, so far as assessors of property are concerned, and besides extending the term of assessors to three years, restores the old practice of counting the terms of assessors from the Monday following the annual elections. The reason for the change is that the work of the assessor begins in December or January, and the cutting off of his term in April leaves his work but half done, and compels the new assessor to take up and complete the work of his predecessor. The duties of the assessor for any one year, extend from January to the November election, and hence the propriety of dating the term from the time of completion of each year's work.

This bill, if the House should pass it, will not affect the office of assessor for election purposes. That officer will have to be chosen annually, as heretofore, in every ward, borough or township divided into more than one election precinct.

The bill providing that notaries public appointed during the recess and afterwards approved by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, shall pay but one fee of $25, instead of two, as heretofore—one for the appointment during the recess, and one for the subsequent appointment during the session of the Senate—having become a law, the Senate to-day confirmed all the pending appointments except a few postponed by request. The army of notaries seems to be growing very rapidly, and every man will soon be his own notary, if the recruiting goes on at present rates.

SPECIAL.

RISE UP WILLIAM ALLEN.

Suit Brought to Ejeet the Ex-Governor from Fruit Hill.

CINCINNATI, March 17.—Proceedings were commenced in the United States Court here to-day, by Allan Campbell McArthur and other grand-children of Duncan McArthur, former Governor of Ohio, to eject ex-Governor William Allen from his farm, near Chillicothe, known as "Fruit Hill," and compel him to account to the legal heirs of Duncan McArthur for all the rents and profits of the estate alleged to be illegally withheld from its heirs. It appears that Governor McArthur, who died in 1839, owner of immense landed wealth, left a will, bequeathing all his property to his wife and Wm. Key Bond, as trustees, to hold until his youngest grand-child became of age, with annual dividends of the profits of the estate among the heirs. When the youngest grand-child became of age the property was to be divided among all the heirs. The will was set aside and the larger portion of the estate came into the possession of Mrs. Coons, daughter of McArthur, who afterward married Governor Allen. The principal contestant became of age about a year ago and having learned the story of the will and its disposition in court, has commenced a suit, with others, to recover. Should the suit be decided against ex-Governor Allen, it will leave him a poor man. The estate involved embraces about eight thousand acres in Ross county, including a portion of the city of Chillicothe.

FIRE RECORD.

Charleston, S. C.—Loss $250,000—Hundreds of Persons Homeless.

CHARLESTON, March 20.—A fire broke out at three A. M., at the corner of King and Rogers alleys. No water being in the neighborhood and the wind blowing a gale from the southeast, the whole block from Columbus to Line streets on the east and west side of King street was soon destroyed. About seven o'clock the fire crossed Line street, sparks and embers being carried by the gale three quarters of a mile up the King street road. Houses, fences and farms along that road were burned. Heartrending scenes were witnessed, and to add to the confusion, bands of negro robbers sacked every house in which no one could gain admittance. Later in the morning Mayor Cunningham took command and some order was restored. By half-past ten the fire had burned itself out. Hundreds of persons are homeless and penniless. The loss is at least $250,000, and very little insurance is reported. The boundaries of the burned district are on the south Columbus street and Rogers alley, on the north the race course, on the east the South Carolina Railroad and on the west St. Philips and Percy streets.

Uhrickaville, O.—$15,000.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

DENNISON, March 20, 1876.

The residence of George W. Dawson, in Uhrickaville, was entirely destroyed by fire this afternoon. The fire was caused by a defective flue. Loss about $15,000.

Republican Legislation.

Massachusetts Republicans in Council.

BOSTON, March 17.—A conference of prominent Republicans was held at Worcester last evening, to secure a State delegation to the National Convention which will give the voice of Massachusetts for the candidates whose character will be a guaranty of purity and ability. Paul A. Chadbourne, President of Williams College, presided, and there was a general discussion as to the need of reform. Committees were appointed on address and on correspondence. A majority of those who expressed their views favored Bristow or Adams for the Presidency.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 16, 1876.

The Pittsburgh Custom House.

The papers relating to the Pittsburgh Custom House were transmitted to the House to-day. The allegations of the special agents are that the accounts and reports were seven months in arrears, that the methods of transacting business were not in conformity with law and regulations, and that illegal fees were collected. The charges are against McGill. The report makes no reflection upon Mr. Steel's integrity or business capacity, but alleges that he is physically incapable of attending to his duties. The Secretary, in his accompanying letter, says that fifty-five telegrams and letters were received by the President and himself from prominent business men of Pittsburgh, requesting the retention of Mr. Steel. This caused the withdrawal of the request for his resignation.

Morrison's Tariff Bill Revived.

The Committee on Ways and Means decided to-day to consider the Tariff bill, Messrs. Morrison, Hancock, Thomas, Hill, Chapin, Tucker and Burchard voting for taking the bill up, and Messrs. Blaine, Kelley, Garfield and Wood against it. It was determined to hold five meetings a week until the bill is disposed of. It cannot be reported in less than three weeks.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 17, 1876.

The Silver Resumption Question.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in a recent conference with the House Committee on Appropriations on the substitution of silver for fractional currency, made the remark that while every arrangement had been made to issue the silver coins and to keep up the supply, he could not tell what change in the relative value of silver and currency, in their relation to gold, might take place in the future, and that therefore he could only speak for the present, which indicated a success. Mr. Randall, who has the matter in charge, says that the bill will pass, while other members of the committee have their doubts.

The Nomination of Mr. Dana.

In conversation to-night, several influential Senators said that there would in all probability be a stubborn fight over Mr. Dana's confirmation. His friends say that he will be able to give a satisfactory explanation of the charged literary piracy, and that they are determined to sustain him. Should the report of the committee be adverse, which is now indicated, his confirmation will not be easy.

Republican Caucus—Indian Policy and Appropriation Bills Discussed.

The Republican Senatorial Caucus to-day considered the Indian peace policy and the appropriations for carrying on the Government. The attendance was small, so that final action was delayed. It is intended that, despite the opposition of some, the Administration Indian peace policy will be sustained in appointing of Indian agents on the recommendation of religious denominations. The rejection of two of these agents was effected by a few Republicans uniting with the Democrats.

In regard to the appropriation bills, a disposition was manifested to accede to the House reductions, so far as they would not impair the efficient administration of the Government; but it was shown that the reductions proposed by the House committee were such that it would be impossible to carry on the public business if they should be adopted. It was stated that the House, in refusing to non-concur in the Senate amendments to the West Point bill, and declining to ask for a committee of conference, shows a determination to adhere, and the House committee will make a stand on all the bills. It was stated in the caucus that the Democrats in the House will not unitedly follow the lead of the committees. The disposition manifested in the caucus was to make the issue with the House, believing that the people will sustain the Republicans.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 19, 1876.

Illness of Fernando Wood.

The severe surgical operation performed upon the leg of Fernando Wood, in the removal of an abscess which would otherwise have terminated fatally within forty-eight hours, his physician says, will disqualify him from participation in public affairs for at least six months.

Morrison's Tariff Bill—Views of the Committee and Secretary Bristow.

As already stated, the Committee on Ways and Means will begin the consideration of the Morrison tariff bill on Tuesday. The committee authorize the announcement that they will be pleased to hear an expression of views by gentlemen representing the various interests affected by the proposed measure. A number of communications have been received at different times from manufacturers and others, indicating that they would desire a hearing in event of the bill coming up for consideration. They will doubtless now present themselves. The next few weeks will therefore be passed in hearing what these gentleman have to say against the bill. At this initial stage in the proceeding, it is impossible to say with exactness what will be the result of the committee's action on the bill as reported by Mr. Morrison, though it is generally believed that it will be materially modified, that it may pass the House, but never will get through the Senate. To begin with, the committee is very emphatically in the interests of free trade. Of this class of the Democrats of the committee are Morrison, of Illinois, the chairman; Wood, of New York; Hancock, of Texas; Thomas, of Maryland; Hill, of Georgia; Chapin, of Massachusetts; and Tucker, of Virginia; and of the Republicans, Burchard, of Illinois; making eight. The protectionists are the Republicans, Kelley, of Pennsylvania, and Blaine, of Maine, making two. General Garfield, of Ohio, while claiming to be a protectionist, is a member of the famous free trade organization, the Cobden Club, of London. General Garfield, in stating his views to the correspondent of the COMMERCIAL, said he believed in a sort of diminishing schedule of duties, so as to approximate free trade as the industries of the country would admit. It is safe to say that Judge Kelley and ex-Speaker Blaine will be obliged to fight the battles of protection single handed against seven Democrats and one Republican, with the uncertain assistance of Garfield. Mr. Wood, in voting against taking the bill up, did so on the ground that it was impolitic to attempt to act upon it at this juncture, but not in opposition to the principle of the bill. In conversation with prominent officials at the Treasury Department, it is learned that the diminished revenues could not sustain any reduction of the present schedule of duties without serious danger of a depletion of the resources of the Treasury to such an extent that the Government in its financial operations would be disastrously embarrassed.

The Payne Compromise Finance Bill.

The Committee on Banks and Currency will not meet for the consideration of the Democratic caucus financial proposition until next Thursday, unless a majority of the committee should urge an earlier day. The chairman of the committee, Mr. Coy, had sufficiently recovered from his recent illness to visit his committee room yesterday. The views as informally expressed by the Democratic members, who, of course, have a majority on the committee, assure not only a favorable report, but favorable action upon their bill in the House. A large number of the Southern Democrats have mentioned to members of the committee that, though they opposed the bill in its inception and are opposed to it in principle, as not meeting the necessities of their respective sections, they will vote for it in the House as a measure of rehabilitation of the party, and in the interest of peace may lead to something at some future time more in harmony with their own views and that of their constituencies. The ultra Inflationists of the West are opposed to the opinions, so that the bill will pass as a measure of expediency and not principle, or, as the Chairman of the committee expressed it yesterday, "We are acting on a sentiment," alluding to the compromise of personal or sectional interests in the cause of a united Democracy. It is not one of the probabilities of the legislation of the first session of the Forty-fourth Congress that the Senate will pass the bill, or even having passed there, that the President will sign it. Many of the hard money Democrats in the House assert their intention to vote against the bill, and some Republicans say they will vote for it, so that these skirmishers will side the lines of parties will about balance each other. An effort will be made in committee to dispose of the bill at a single meeting, and to report it either at the end of this week or the beginning of the next.

The Badly Ventilated Hall of Representatives.

The atmospheric impurities in the hall of Representatives in the Capitol, which it is believed have been the cause of so much sickness amongst the members of the House, have become a question of very serious comment. The cause is attributed to imperfect ventilation, organic debris from the refectories and other sources in the basement and sub-basement of the building, and the congregation of visitors, white and black, in vast numbers in the galleries. These pestilence distributing agencies are perhaps the leading cause of the trouble complained of. Last session the seats of the gentlemen's galleries were removed and thoroughly deodorized and cleansed. The seats and cushions were literally alive with vermin dropped from the foul carcasses of this unkempt rabble. The place had become so notoriously foul that no person of refined sensibilities and cleanly notions of things could bring himself to the risk of contamination, and would either be obliged to obtain a special permit from a member to the ladies' galleries or leave the place. Those who crowded there almost from early dawn, and only left when driven out by the police after adjournment, were the denizens of the filth-reeking, pestilence-breeding alleys, and had assembled there for warmth in winter, and in summer for rest and repose, while perhaps their nocturnal diversions were made up of forays upon the coffers, plate chests or hen roosts of industrious people. It is proposed by some member to vacate the hall of Representatives and occupy as a suitable building in the open until a rearrangement of the present interior plan of the South Extension can be made. This was proposed by Gen. Butler several years ago, but no action was taken. The alarming length of the sick roll of Representatives gives this movement increased seriousness at this juncture. One member, who says that he can trace his illness to the atmosphere of the House, is now actually considering whether he shall introduce a resolution looking to some radical action in the premises.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 20, 1876.

The Texas Pacific.

The Senate Committee on Pacific Railroads to-day decided to defer action upon the Texas Pacific Railroad until some future time. The House arrived at the same decision several weeks since.

Dinner to Senator Cameron.

Representatives Wallace, Ross and Freeman to-day waited upon Senator Cameron and, on behalf of the Republicans of the Pennsylvania delegation, tendered him a dinner in honor of his seventy-eighth birthday and "recognition of his long and faithful public service. The venerable Senator expressed his appreciation of the compliment, and will fix a day.

The Government at the Centennial.

The House Committee on Appropriations to-day voted against allowing the balance of the $971,000 called for last year to enable the Executive Department to make a suitable display at the Centennial. The least amount asked for was $325,000. The Democrats voted against the appropriation, and the Republicans, with Randall, for it.

Discriminations by Common Carriers.

The bill introduced by Mr. Hopkins to-day to prevent unjust discriminations by common carriers, was founded on the complaint of the oil men of Pittsburgh that the railroads discriminate against them in carrying freight; that they can ship to Parkersburg, and thence reach the seaboard cheaper than by the more direct routes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 18, 1876.

PENDLETON'S JOBBERY—TESTIMONY OF GENERAL KIDDOO.

At the meeting of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department to-day, General James B. Kiddoo was called as a witness.

He was asked whether he told Colonel Grafton, or any one else, that some years ago Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Bowers (afterward Mrs. Belknap), Mr. Pendleton and Mr. Clymer traveled together in Europe. Witness replied that he did not, as nothing of the kind occurred. Witness, however, met Mr. Clymer at Vienna, July 4, 1873; they traveled in Germany together; parted at Berlin in July. Witness, in answer to a question, replied that as far as he recollected he related to Colonel Grafton, General Boynton's informant, what he said to Mr. Clymer, namely, that this was a matter which ought to be thoroughly investigated. Mr. Clymer said they had not sufficient data to go on for investigation. Witness remembered that he said to Mr. Clymer that he had many data against Pendleton as he had against Belknap when he commenced the investigation of the latter. Witness, in response to a question from Mr. Wheeler, said, in substance, that he [Clymer] said he would go to the War Department for information concerning Pendleton, when witness told him he had better go to Colonel Grafton, which he was.

Mr. Clymer—Did I show an unwillingness to examine Pendleton's case?

Answer—No, I never said so to Colonel Grafton. Witness detailed the character of the contract with Athey; in consideration that he would buy up the stock of Durfe & Peck, he was to receive a salary at the rate of $1,500 per annum; to another portion of the contract was done to protect the interests of the firm, as they had $40,000 worth of goods at the post, and as Athey might buy the goods therein, they should buy the goods of the firm, they were to pay Surveyor-General Babcock five per cent. on this; if they did not, for the latter, making the sum of $2,250; this was in consideration of Babcock's having procured the contract.

Adjourned.

RECALL OF MR. AND MRS. MARSH.

Yesterday the House Judiciary Committee sent a communication to the President, stating that no material evidence against Belknap had been obtained, and urging the President to make an effort to induce Marsh to return. The Attorney General at once appeared before the committee and related to them the action decided upon by the President, he had already taken in the matter. Several days since he opened negotiations with Marsh, the consideration of the letter that the *Herald* had made inquiry and ascertained that Groome, who is a stock raiser and importer of blooded stock, is now abroad. The Secretary then reiterated the committee took a recess.

THE SPENCER INVESTIGATION.

The investigation concerning Senator Spencer's election was continued by the Senate committee to-day. The examination of Robert Barber, begun on Saturday, was continued at considerable length and developed nothing of interest. The committee announced that the evidence offered to show what means were used to prevent members of the Court House Legislature from getting over to the Capitol Square and thus breaking the former's quorum, is not within the range of testimony that can properly be taken by this committee.

IMPORTANT DECISIONS OF UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

The United States Supreme Court this afternoon delivered an unanimous opinion reversing the decision of the California Supreme Court in the so-called "Chinese case" and ordering the woman Chy Lung to be released from the custody in which she is held under the foreign passenger act of that State. This decision sustains the ruling made by Justice Field in similar cases brought before him while on the United States Circuit Court. The Supreme Court accompanies its decision with severe criticism of the law of California on this subject.

A decision was also rendered in the case involving the constitutionality of the New York passenger laws. The Court declares them unconstitutional, and holds that no law prescribing conditions as to the landing of passengers from abroad can be constitutionally made by any other power than that of Congress.

In the case of Mrs. Gaines *vs.* Fuents, Justice Field delivered the opinion of the court, reversing the decision of the Supreme Court of Louisiana and holding that under the Popular Prejudice act of 1867, where the suit is between citizens of different United States, the cause should be removed to the Circuit Court of the United States, regardless of the subject matter in controversy.

It was also decided that the present county of Laramie, in Wyoming Territory, is responsible for the entire debt contracted by it previous to the segregation from it of two other counties. This case has excited much interest, for the reason that it is understood to involve the same question that is now in controversy between the States of Virginia and West Virginia as to the liability of the former, as now constituted, for the debt incurred by the old State when it comprehended the whole of the territory that was subsequently divided between them.

POSTAL STRAW BIDS—TESTIMONY OF MR. BARLOW CONTINUED—FAT LOCK CONTRACT.

Bradley Barlow, of the firm of Barlow & Sanderson, was again under examination by the House Postal Committee to-day. He testified that the firm had in several instances, last year, bought off lower bidders for mail contracts, in order to obtain them at the firm's higher figures, but denied that any money had ever been paid or loaned by him or his partners to any official in the Postoffice Department. He admitted that he had loaned considerable sums, not exceeding $20,000 in the aggregate, to General Morgan L. Smith, brother of Gilbert A. Smith, then Second Assistant Postmaster General, but swore that these loans were not made for the purpose of influencing the latter. He gave some details showing how the firm had secured certain valuable contracts last year. He paid to Grant & Co., of California, to Corbett & Beekman, of Oregon, and to a Mr. Blanchard several thousand dollars to draw their bids for service between Redding, California, and Roseburgh, Oregon, and he paid to Governor Thompson, of Idaho, $1,500 for relinquishing his lower bid on the long route from Dallas, Oregon, to Kelton, Utah.

At the afternoon session of the House Postal Committee, Mr. Barlow swore that he never made any improper suggestion to any Government official, and never asked or expected any man to whom he gave or caused money to make any work of suggestion to a Government official. He had employed Mr. Earl to act as an attorney for him before the Department during his absence from Washington. He admitted that the fact that Earl had formerly been a law partner of Postmaster General Creswell partly influenced him in making his selection of an attorney, on account of the latter's facilities of access to Creswell and his ability to obtain information relating to his interest, but he paid him less than $5,000 in all for his services. His employment commenced after he ceased to hold the office of Assistant Postmaster General.

The committee also examined Henry L. Johnson, Chief of the Lock and Bag Division. He testified that several years ago a contract was awarded to Mix & Co. to furnish locks, and that after they employed ex-Assistant Postmaster General Earl as their attorney, they secured an increase in price, which amounted, during the term of their contract and its extension, to $30,000 additional expenditure by the Government. He said the price was increased on the basis of certain changes and improvements.

A WEEKLY LIST OF UNITED STATES PATENTS

issued to the inventors of Pennsylvania and Ohio, for the week ending March 14, 1876. Reported by telegraph expressly for the COMMERCIAL, by A. H. Evans & Co., Patent Solicitors, May Building, Washington, D. C.:

PENNSYLVANIA.

A. J. Connelly, Philadelphia—Water pipe.
A. Hipert, Philadelphia—Destroying insects.
T. G. Atterson, Philadelphia—Fruit jar.
J. A. Reed, Philadelphia—Stove grate.
J. B. Corey, Philadelphia—Railroad switch.
J. A. Farr, Philadelphia—Corset steel.
B. Harbert, Philadelphia—Ice cream freezer.
H. B. Smith, Philadelphia—Copy holder.
A. G. Buzby, Philadelphia—Pencil sharpener.
J. B. Carey, Philadelphia—Car coupling.
J. Dunnen, Philadelphia—Pin machine.
L. J. Montejo, Philadelphia—Cigarmaker's board.
W. B. Park, Philadelphia—Whistle and flag.
W. D. Seal, Philadelphia—Air compressor.
J. C. Smith, Philadelphia—Rectifying apparatus.
C. F. Phelps, Waterford—Muzzle for horses.
D. R. Shively, New Lebanon—Engine.
A. Sperber, Pittsburgh—Manufacture of glass wares.
J. W. Beall, Sewickley—Fire place heater.
W. Mercer, Greenfield—Wagon houn.
A. Phillips, Union City—Boring machine.
Q. A. Scott, Pittsburgh—Dental plate.
W. Pine, Reno—Oil refining.
D. Clark, Hazleton—Coal breaker.
W. B. Grash, Reading—Grinder for mowers.
T. Turner, Mulberry—Hay knives.
A. N. Wolf, Allentown—Water wheel.
Reissue—J. S. Engle, Palmyra—Pump plunger.
J. R. Perry, Wilkesbarre—Wooden houses.
G. St. George, Jr., Philadelphia—Stitch ripper.
Design—G. H. Prindle, Philadelphia—Dress trimming.
J. W. Barth, Jr., Philadelphia—Flag holder.
H. De Barry, Philadelphia—Chinese lantern.

OHIO.

H. L. Carrington, Charlestown—Attachment for plows.
W. Gardner, Toledo—Magazine gun.
C. F. Newman, Lorsene—Stove lid.
W. P. Haines, West Middleburg—Curtain fixtures.
G. W. S. Lucas, Salem—Fire place.
H. Bodey, Galion—Lamp funnel.
T. Carter, Niles—Ore separator.
J. J. Johnston, Columbiana—Manufacture of iron and steel.
D. S. Roush and S. S. Sarver, Letart Falls—Rag holder.
J. & F. Born, Delta—Washing machine.
A. W. Brimkerhoff, Upper Sandusky—Fruit jar.
F. Shellenback, Hamilton—Combined lock and alarm.
H. Waitner, Hamilton—Water wheel.
J. Seet, Independence—Rotary churn.
Trade Mark—Dayton Machine Co., Dayton—Horse hay rake.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO GERMANY.

LONDON, March 16.—A Berlin special says a private villa has been engaged for Queen Victoria at Baden Baden during her sojourn there. She will travel *incognito*. It is stated that she will assume the title of Countess of Rosenau, after the late Prince Consort's favorite residence in Thuringia. It is not expected that she will stay at Baden Baden longer than a week, after which it is understood she will proceed to Coburg and spend an equal time at the Court of her brother-in-law, the reigning Duke. The Empress Augusta wishes to meet Queen Victoria at Coburg. The Crown Prince and Princess of Germany will also meet her there. Emperor William proposes to visit her at Baden Baden. Queen Victoria has particularly requested that no official reception be extended to her anywhere on the journey.

STEAMER WRECKED—THIRTY LIVES LOST.

LONDON, March 20.—The steamer Isabel, from Rochelle for Bristol, was wrecked Saturday night on the Pendeer Rocks, between Si. Ives and Lands End. Six corpses have been washed ashore. The crew were thirty in number, and all undoubtedly perished, as nothing remained of the wreck. Sunday evening, separated gales prevailed.

LONDON, March 19.—The Prince of Wales and suite arrived at Aden on return from India.

Servia.

THE QUESTION OF WAR STILL IN DOUBT.

LONDON, March 17.—A Vienna dispatch asserts that the Servian Ministers seem to favor immediate war. The situation is aggravated by continued raids of Turkish troops on the frontier. The Turks are rendered utterly reckless by want.

A *Times'* special dispatch from Vienna says the Austrian representative at Belgrade had another interview with Prince Milan Thursday, and urged him to make a binding declaration in favor of peace. The Prince asked a few days' delay, because he would not trust the peaceful assurances of Montenegro until the latter entered into the action he could not remain behind, and preparation for war was all the more necessary, as the Turks were again concentrating on the Servian frontier. Long Cabinet councils are held daily. It is thought at Belgrade that the Government will not accept the intervention to the frontier, as it did last year.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT—TRAIN THROWN INTO A RIVER—ALL THE PASSENGERS DROWNED OR CRUSHED TO DEATH.

LONDON, March 17.—A Pera dispatch to the *Daily Telegraph* says an arch of a railway bridge over the river Ill, near Lutterbach, gave way under the pressure of the flood. A passenger train from Mulhausen for Strasbourg, which was crossing at the time, was precipitated into the river. The carriages fell on top of the engine and were dashed to pieces. Owing to the violence of the stream, none of the passengers could be saved. All were either crushed to death or drowned. Thirty corpses have already been recovered.

Italy.

RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTRY.

ROME, March 19.—The Ministry has resigned. The King has intrusted to Signor Depretes, of the Left, the task of forming a Cabinet.

LONDON, March 19.—The *Standard's* Rome correspondent says the Ministry was really insisted on account of the railway purchase scheme, although defeated nominally on a question relative to the grist tax.

VESUVIUS IN ACTION—A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT.

A telegram from Naples reports that the long-expected eruption of Mount Vesuvius commenced Friday night. The lava is flowing towards Pompeii. A large column of vapor rises from the summit and reflects the fire beneath. Vast quantities of lava are thrown upward. The sight is magnificent.

Spain.

GENERAL PAVIA EXPLAINS HIS COUP D'ETAT.

LONDON, March 20.—A Madrid dispatch to the *Daily News* reports that in the debate in the Cortes on the address, General Pavia, referring to the *coup d'etat* of 1874, said it was the only course to save the country from still greater dangers. He alone was responsible, Castelar being unwilling to act. Castelar said if he had been aware of what was intended he would have been justified in ordering Pavia to be shot.

Scotland.

THE SNOW STORM—RAILROADS BLOCKED—TWENTY FEET AT ABERDEEN—TELEGRAPH LINES BURIED.

LONDON, March 20.—Nearly all the railroads north of the river Tay remain more or less blocked by snow. The Caledonian line is covered with snow twenty feet deep near Aberdeen. Twelve trains are snowed in at one point. More than a dozen trains are blocked on the Great Northern line. The telegraph lines are buried at several points north of Aberdeen. The mail from Dundee to Perth yesterday took fourteen hours instead of the usual forty minutes. The cold to-day is intense.

STEUBENVILLE.

Jefferson County Republican Convention—Hayes for President and Danford for Congress.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

STEUBENVILLE, O., March 18, 1876.

The Republican County Convention was held here to-day. Its proceedings were marked by harmony and unanimity. Resolutions were adopted urging Hon. Lorenzo Danford to accept a renomination to Congress from the Sixteenth district, and in favor of Rutherford B. Hays for the Presidency.

RHODE ISLAND.

Democratic State Convention.

PROVIDENCE, March 16.—The Democratic State Convention to-day nominated General Lewis Cooke for Governor; B. O. Slocum, Lieutenant Governor; John S. Price, Secretary of State; Oscar S. Lapham, Attorney General; Wm. P. Congdon, General Treasurer.

XLIV. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 16, 1876.

SENATE.

Mr. ANTHONY, from the Committee on Printing, reported back two resolutions in relation to printing debates, and asked to be discharged from further consideration. Agreed to.

He also submitted the following as the report of the committee on the subject:

Resolved, That the proceedings and debates shall be printed in the *Record* as actually delivered.

Mr. CAMERON, of Pennsylvania, sent up a slip from a newspaper charging that several Senators kept private secretaries who were paid as clerks. As one of the Senators mentioned, he denied the

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 21, 1876.

SENATE.

Mr. Anderson offered a resolution recalling from the Governor House bill No. 6. Agreed to.

Mr. Newmyer's bill for the classification of real estate and election assessors in Pittsburgh passed to third reading.

An attempt to take up the Centennial Appropriation bill failed.

The following bills passed finally:

Repealing an act entitled "An act for the more speedy collection of taxes in Hallam township, York county."

For the regulation of international exhibitions held under the State government.

To authorize the Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of the Northern District to administer oaths.

Authorizing certain public and municipal corporations to borrow money upon mortgages of their real estate.

For the punishment of cruelty to animals.

To make the 10th day of May a legal holiday.

Relative to the summoning of jurors to serve in the criminal courts.

To enable hospitals, schools and charitable institutions in a manner to purchase, receive and hold ground rents for investments.

The following were defeated:

Supplementary to the act entitled "An act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations," approved the 29th day of April, A. D. 1874, extending its provisions to all who may have the right to vote at elections for directors, managers or trustees.

Providing for the establishment of industrial schools in the Commonwealth.

Authorizing a change of venue.

Supplement to an act entitled "An act to provide for the manner of increasing the capital stock and indebtedness of corporations," approved the 18th day of April, 1874.

The following passed finally:

Senate bills No. 217, 226, 158, 174, 186, 194, 211, 232, 149.

The Governor nominated the following appointments for the advice and consent of the Senate: C. M. Brown to be Justice of the Peace for the borough of Harrisville, Butler county, until thirty days after the next borough municipal elections; Public—H. T. Morris and R. W. Miller, Pittsburgh; Ralph Maxwell, Greensville, Mercer county.

Adjourned until Thursday morning.

HOUSE.

A large delegation of physicians were present in the House this morning in the interest of the bill authorizing the use of unclaimed bodies of convicts. The matter was taken up for consideration, and after the insertion of several amendments was laid on the table.

An attempt, which failed, was made by Mr. Lusk to fix the sessions of the House for Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

The following were passed finally:

House bill 66 (the coal miners' bill) by a vote of 152 yeas to eight nays.

Empowering Councils in the boroughs of this Commonwealth to prescribe by ordinance the salary to be paid out of the borough treasury to the Burgess, in lieu of all fees, fines and costs, the manner in which said salaries shall be paid, &c.

Giving bounties on fox, wild cat and skunk scalps, and for the killing of hawks and owls.

For the more convenient dispatch of public business in the courts.

Creating and defining the duties and powers of recorders for cities of the third class which accept the provisions of this act.

The following were defeated:

To prevent the unlicensed sale of merchandise at auction in any city, borough or township in this Commonwealth by other than licensed venders.

Mr. Christy attempted to suspend the rules so as to introduce his joint resolution appointing a committee of investigation into the affairs of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The motion was laid on the table by a vote of eighty-two yeas to sixty-eight nays. All the Allegheny members, excepting Mr. Cameron, voted for the introduction of the joint resolution. Mr. Swan did not vote at all.

The Conference Committee to whom was referred the bill regulating the salaries of county officers in counties containing over 150,000 inhabitants, which comprises Philadelphia, Allegheny and Luzerne counties, have finished their labors and the bill will be reported Thursday or Friday next. The bill will pass both Houses and become a law. It cuts off all perquisites, which will be a saving to Allegheny county of at least $10,000 annually. The salaries of Allegheny county officials will be as follows:

Prosecuting Attorney, now receiving $6,000 and fifty per cent. of forfeited recognizances, $5,000.

Assistant District Attorney, same as now, $1,500.

Sheriff, now receiving $6,000 and mileage, $6,000.

Prothonotary, same as now, $6,000.

Clerk of Courts, now receiving $3,000 and two dollars on each license fee, $1,500.

Register, now receiving $2,500 and five per cent. on collateral inheritance tax, $3,500.

Recorder, now receiving $4,000 and fees $4,000.

Controller, now receiving $3,000, $4,000.

Treasurer, now receiving $4,500 and county and State fees, $5,000.

Commissioners, same as now, $2,000.

Jailer, same as now, $500.

County Detective, same as now, $1,200.

County Solicitor, same as now, $800.

Coroner, now receiving $2,000 and mileage, $2,000.

Adjourned until Thursday morning.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Tunis.

ITALIAN CONSULAR JUDGE ATTACKED—THE ASSASSIN KILLED.

LONDON, March 22.—A private letter, dated Tunis, March 14, says: "We had a great excitement here yesterday, in consequence of the attempted murder of Judge Puliga, of the Italian Consulate, and the killing of the would be assassin by the Judge's dragoman. The body was brought, followed by an immense mob, to the Italian Consulate, and threatened to set fire to it, so that the troops were called out to guard the approaches to the Italian and American Consulates. They had great difficulty in keeping the mob back for several hours, with fixed bayonets leveled at them. It was feared that there might be a renewal of the fanatical excitement which prevailed at this time some years ago." Guigina Puliga is the Italian Consular Judge at Tunis. It is ascertained from a gentleman well informed in Tunisian affairs, that for some time there have been unpleasant relations between the Italian Consulate and the Tunisian authorities. Some months ago the Consul neglected to pay an important ceremonial visit to the Bey. The palace authorities felt the omission, but took no official action. It is probable that on the 13th Judge Puliga was walking or driving in the city, attended by a dragoman, when the attack was made.

Italy.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CABINET.

ROME, March 22.—Depretis has accepted the Presidency of the Council of the Ministry of Finance. The following members of the new Cabinet have also accepted portfolios: Melegara, Foreign Affairs, and Mancini, Justice.

Turkey.

A PROSPECT OF PEACE WITH THE INSURGENTS.

VIENNA, March 22.—The *Political Correspondence* says that in consequence of the armistice, it is considered very probable that the Turks and insurgents will shortly commence direct negotiations for peace.

COUNTERFEIT GOVERNMENT BONDS.

Important Capture of Criminals and Machinery.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., March 21, 1876.

The Secret Service, under Agent Benson, made the most important haul to-night ever made in this country. Arrests have been made here, at Scranton and at Portland, Pa. A new process for the reproduction of Government bonds and alarmingly dangerous plates, blanks, bonds and chemicals have been captured.

SCRANTON, Pa., March 21.—This afternoon Col. E. Washburn, Chief of the United States Secret Service at Washington, assisted by two other detectives, arrested George Fox, a prominent citizen, and W. S. Barry, of Portland, Pa., on a charge of being extensively engaged in the manufacture of plates for printing United States 5-20 bonds and bank Treasury notes. Simultaneously with these arrests a brother of the man Winans, at Philadelphia, and also a confederate named Wintermute, at Portland, were also arrested.

SAN FRANCISCO.

The Chinese Immigration Question.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 21.—In view of the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States that the State legislation regulating Chinese emigration is unconstitutional, the Board of Supervisors last night unanimously adopted a recommendation to the Mayor to appoint a committee of citizens who shall call a mass meeting for an expression of the public sentiment and choose a deputation to represent the matter to Congress in the most forcible manner. The last steamer from China brought over one thousand Chinese, and the entire steerage capacity of the lines is engaged for the next six months by importers of Coolies. The action of the Board of Supervisors excites general favorable comment.

The Washington *Republican* views it in this wise: "Belknap took $20,000 for his family's sake, Hiester Clymer sent Marsh away for Pendleton's sake, and Pendleton took $80,000 belonging to a poor widow, for his own sake, all of which were grave mistakes."

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 21, 1876.

Dana's Nomination Reported Adversely.

The Committee on Foreign Relations today reaffirmed their adverse decision on the nomination of Mr. Dana. In addition to the original charges, the offensive letter recently written by him, with reference to the action of the committee in his case, afforded reasons for this action. One of the leading members of the committee remarked that any one who would write such a letter, under the circumstances, was not fit for a diplomatic post, especially one of such great importance. In the executive session to-day, the nomination of Mr. Dana was reported adversely. Mr. Boutwell objected to its present consideration, in order to gain time. There is no doubt that the Senate will confirm the adverse report of the committee. Ex-President Woolsey, of Yale College, writes to Senator Dawes that Mr. Dana was not guilty of literary piracy; the decision of the court declares that he was. The Massachusetts delegation signed a protest against Mr. Dana's rejection.

The Lancaster Convention.

Senator Wallace and Representative Randall left for Lancaster to-day, to attend the Democratic Convention. Mr. Randall, in conversation, stated that he favored no action on the finances leaving that to be disposed of at St. Louis, and that he would support the indorsement of Judge Black for the Presidential nomination. Senator Wallace believes in correcting the follies of the Convention at Erie by the enunciation of a financial policy, and opposes any pledges beforehand, for the reason that to indorse a man who cannot be nominated only subjects the delegation to manipulation and weakens the importance of its action.

The Tariff Bill.

The Committee on Ways and Means began the consideration of the Tariff bill today, and adopted all the reductions on manufactures of cotton. It is proposed to consider iron to-morrow. The bill fixes the duty on pig iron at five dollars per ton, which figure, it is intimated, will be adopted in the committee.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 22, 1876.

The Proposed Banquet to Senator Cameron —His Letter of Declination.

The following interesting correspondence in reference to a dinner to be given in honor of the public services and seventy-eighth birthday of Hon. Simon Cameron, has been exchanged. The reply of the venerable Senator, declining the invitation, presents an interesting epitome of a long and useful life:

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 20, 1876.

Hon. Simon Cameron:

DEAR SIR—It is with feelings of the most sincere and earnest character that we, the undersigned, in behalf and at the request of our Republican colleagues of the State of Pennsylvania in the Forty-fourth Congress, extend to you their affectionate congratulations upon your having entered, with all the vigor for which your life has been so remarkably unimpaired, your seventy-eighth year.

Looking back over the many years during which our good old State has had the advantage of your supervision and direction in its public affairs, we feel proud of the record of the faithful zeal, the unerring wisdom, and the comprehensive statesmanship which have marked your course.

Throughout your long, busy and useful public career, no man has deserved your friendship in a more marked degree, nor has ever found in you an undeserving foe. We desire to express in an appropriate manner our warm esteem for you as the leading public man of Pennsylvania and our affectionate regard for you as a friend. We beg, therefore, that you will name an early day which will suit your convenience to designate a public dinner from us as Representatives.

We are, dear General Cameron, very sincerely yours,

JOHN W. WALLACE,
SOBIESKI ROSS,
CHAPMAN FREEMAN,
ALAN WOOD, JR.,
Committee.

Senator Cameron's Reply.

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER, WASHINGTON, D. C., March 22, 1876.

Gentlemen: I acknowledge the invitation you send me to meet you at a banquet on such a day as may be designated by myself, and the terms in which that invitation is conveyed, with profound pleasure. You are pleased to refer to my past life in words of approval and compliment, and to express the hope that my health and vigor may continue. I thank you very sincerely. My aim through life has been to do my duty, and so far as is unconsciously or possible, trusting to time to settle the controversies sure to arise concerning the methods and motives of any man who feels strongly and acts decisively. In this reliance your letter shows me that I have been fortunate. After passing seventy-seven years in the State that gave me birth, and where I have spent the greater lifetime in active private pursuits and public duties, it is, beyond expression, pleasant to hear the voice of the Representatives of Pennsylvania express their satisfaction and approval. And this is enough. No entertainment could be given, no sentiments that might be added, would be capable of increasing the joy your invitation has conferred. While acting my part in the national councils, I have always remembered with affection the great Commonwealth that has so often honored me, and I am now unconscious of any wilful neglect of her material interests, of any lukewarmness where her welfare has been in question. More than partisanship the good of Pennsylvania has held a place in my heart. As a Republican, I have sought to combine the brains and masses of that great organization in a support for its wise policy. And I now look back with an approving conscience on my course, in both the great political parties of that period, covered by active political life. Therefore it is that your approval of my course as a Pennsylvanian is so gratifying to me. But, gentlemen, a regard for the pleasanter way doing what is set before me without parade, induces me to hesitate in accepting your invitation. On full reflection, I feel forced to decline it, and I trust the reasons which control me in this decision will not only be appreciated by you and the gentlemen you represent, but that they will not be denied a measure of that approval that has been so generously and partially accorded to my past life. If, on the completion of my present Senatorial term, the same desire to approve a finished record should exist, then assure you with pleasure and free from any restraint; for my work will have been done and a juster estimate can then be made of how it was done.

I am, gentlemen, with sentiments of gratitude and esteem, your friend,

[Signed] SIMON CAMERON.

Hons. John W. Wallace, Sobieski Ross, Chapman Freeman, Alan Wood, Committee.

The List of Proposed Guests.

The following guests were to be invited: U. S. Grant, President of the United States; John F. Hartranft, Governor of Pennsylvania; B. H. Bristow, Secretary of the Treasury; Senators Roscoe Conkling, O. P. Morton; W. Strong, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; Representatives James G. Blaine, W. D. Kelley, Sobieski Ross, Chapman Freeman, John B. Packer, Charles O'Neill, J. W. Wallace, Alan Wood, Jr., Hon. Henry Smith and Washington Townsend; Samuel F. Barr and six members of the press of Philadelphia.

Reckless Reductions and Serious Consequences.

The reckless reductions made in the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation bill by the Democratic Committee on Appropriations, threatens the most serious consequences. A number of the bureau officers say that they will be compelled to resign if it passes, as their responsibility is such that they could not afford to retain their positions. The same committee today completed the Postoffice bill, agreeing, amongst other things, to an average reduction of ten per cent. on all postmasters' salaries.

Gentleman George's Nervousness.

The return of Marsh has increased the nervousness of Gentleman George Pendleton. Since the disclosure of his operations in the Kentucky Central Railroad claim, he has not exhibited the vanity of manner which characterized his first appearance here.

The Morrison Tariff.

The action of the Committee on Ways and Means on the Tariff bill indicates that they are in favor of striking out all the *ad valorem* duties and the reduction of many of the specific duties. It is proposed to take up iron to-morrow. Iron in pig will be fixed at five dollars and coal put on the free list.

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 21, 1876.

GENERAL BUTLER TESTIFIES IN THE PENDLETON SCANDAL—MORE TESTIMONY CONCERNING POST TRADERSHIPS.

General B. F. Butler was before the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department to-day. The Chairman called his attention to a telegram in the New York *Evening Post* of Friday last, in which it was stated that a prominent Republican lawyer had taken much interest in what was known as the Belknap scandal, so far as it related to Mr. Pendleton. He asked General Butler whether he was the gentleman to whom allusion was made. The General replied that he could not tell. The Chairman asked him whether he had any information relating to Mr. Pendleton and whether he had communicated with any one on the subject. The General replied that he had only hearsay information; he had spoken primarily to a member of this committee (Mr. Danford), thinking that what he told him might be of use. The Chairman said it was alleged, in a telegram, that a Treasury draft for $30,000, made payable at the National Park Bank of New York, was indorsed by Pendleton and the money, after passing through the hands of two persons, was paid over to Mrs. Bowers in person in that city. The General replied that he had a gentleman making some investigation as to the facts in New York, to be used in a lawsuit in which the General was counsel. After the investigation the gentleman came to him and informed him that he was told by one person that another person knew about the payment of the money, and that she was present when the $30,000 were paid to Mrs. Bowers, said to come from Pendleton. The General said to his informant, "Can you get at the persons?" The answer was, "Yes." This was a week ago Saturday. The General left for Washington Saturday night. The General further said to him, "You had better probe the matter to the bottom. If what you state is a fact, it ought to be known." This informant made an engagement to meet the party supposed to possess the information; this was the next Wednesday. The General told him that if there was anything to require his presence in New York, he would go thither on being telegraphed. Thursday his informant telegraphed in cipher that the party whom he was to meet had left New York for New Orleans on the previous Tuesday night, together with the witness in question. The General received no further account of information. Under these circumstances, knowing that Mr. Bass, a member of the committee, was ill, and not being well acquainted with all the members of the committee, he communicated such information as he had to Mr. Danford, of the committee, perhaps more *in extenso* than on the present occasion. The General said to Mr. Danford that it was evident somebody had been tampering with the parties by sending them to New Orleans so suddenly, and he also said to Mr. Danford, "If you can get a subpœna from your committee in blank, to be filled up privately, without the names getting into the newspapers, and be served by a confidential deputy of the Sergeant-at-Arms whom I should name, I think the parties, who are known to me, could be caught." I refrained from telling Mr. Danford because twelve or fifteen gentlemen connected with the press would have published them all over the United States.

Question—Have you any objection to stating to the committee the names of the parties?

Answer—Not at all.

Q.—Have you any objection to stating the name of the person who gave you the names of the parties possessed of the information?

A.—The name of my informant is B. G. Jayne, who was hunting up for me in New York testimony in a revenue case.

The General, in reply to a question, said he met Smith, the correspondent of the *Evening Post*, at the Attorney General's office and remarked to him that his attention had been particularly called to the testimony of Whunell, a clerk in the Treasury Department, showing that the amount paid on account of the Kentucky Central Railroad was divided into three parts, $98,500 going to a bank in Kentucky, and separate drafts for $30,000 and $50,000 being taken by Pendleton. He was curious to see the testimony, because he had known something about the $30,000. Smith sought to interview him after the manner of newspaper correspondents. The next time the General saw Smith, was the time he had the interview with Danford.

The General was asked whether he supposed Smith was going to publish what he said to him. Answered that he did not suppose to throw any imputation on Smith, he would merely remark that he never said anything to correspondents that was not published. I laughed, but he did not trust them with untold gold, but he would not trust them with a bit of news.

J. S. Evans, late post trader at Fort Sill, followed and detailed the circumstances surrounding his obtaining permission from Marsh to remain at Fort Sill. It was a matter of necessity with Marsh, he said, to come to terms with Marsh. Secretary Belknap told Evans he had promised Marsh a place and Marsh had selected Fort Sill. Evans saw Marsh, who appeared to understand all about the matter. He went to New York with Marsh, where a written contract was signed. Evans presented a detailed statement in writing of his payments to Marsh. He said he told his friends of his agreement with Marsh, and among others General Grierson, the commanding officer at the post, the contract on his return to Fort Sill. The facts, he said, were well known there and it was necessary for him to have courage and the cause of extortionate prices. Evans said he was introduced to the Secretary of War by General Rice, of Iowa, and paid him $1,000 for his influence with him. He thought this was enough, though Rice wanted $1,500. Witness wished to deny a published statement of Capt. Robinson, that he was a partner of Belknap's wife, and that Dent & Co. connived at the matter; there was no foundation for the report. J. C. Dent was a brother-in-law of the President.

Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, appeared before the committee to deny that he had ever promised any one a post tradership in the event of that person supporting him for the Senatorship.

[Hawkins Taylor, formerly of Iowa, a lobbyist, gave an account of lobby operations. He obtained a post tradership for Dr. F. G. H. Bradford. The influence of the Maine delegation, with the exception of Mr. Morrill, was secured for Bradford. Witness received one hundred dollars for his services. Secretary Belknap said he would appoint Bradford, for he wanted to do a good act for Senator Hamlin. Bradford sold the tradership for $6,000 cash, and afterward dismissed. Witness procured a tradership at Fort Stanton for R. M. Stevens, for which service he received one hundred dollars. Stevens, he said, however took possession of the post and somebody else got the place. He tried to have Spiedelburg appointed at Fort Bingate, but did not succeed. He received one hundred and fifty dollars for that service. Subsequently having Col. Chas. Miller appointed post trader at Fort Barrett, and was paid one thousand dollars.

Adjourned.

EMMA MINE INVESTIGATION—TESTIMONY OF EX-SENATOR STEWART.

The examination of ex-Senator Stewart was commenced by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs to-day. He began by giving the history of his first connection with the affairs of the Emma mine, as counsel for Lyon. He explained the contract with Park and the meaning of the expression in his letter to Lyon about "fighting for a worked out mine." He believed at that time that it would require five to eight years to get a trial, and meantime the mine was being worked by other parties, so that when a trial should be reached the proceeds of the mine would be exhausted as dividends where they could not be reached by suits. The contract to which the letter referred placed some of the proceeds of Lyon's immediate control.

He corroborated the statement of Senator Morton as to his proposed connection with the matter, and gave his opinion that Judge Bond was an honest judge. Mr. Stewart detailed the manner of placing the stock on the London market, and said that a gentleman named Coates suggested that Mr. Lyon's transactions with parties in the mine, and telegraphed him to do so, arranging at the same time for the compensation of the Professor; this without the suggestion either of Park or Lyon. Park and Grant made a contract for the sale of the mine under the provision, which have already been published. Mr. Stewart's statements was very lengthy, going into the details of the negotiations in England and his connection with Lyon. He denied that he ever told Lyon about General Schenck and Professor Silliman.

Question by Mr. Hewitt—Mr. Lyon, in his testimony, says that you told him, "We gave General Schenck five hundred shares of stock." Did you ever say such a thing to him?

Witness—I did not; I deny it most emphatically; I never told him anything of the kind.

Adjourned.

A STATEMENT FROM BABCOCK.

Respecting what has been said about the recent correspondence of the Attorney General with District Attorney Ker, intended to reflect upon General Babcock, he makes and authorizes the publication of the following statement: "I found a copy of the letter lying upon my desk at the Executive Mansion. I don't know how or by whom it came there. It was without envelope of direction to anybody. It was not marked official or confidential. There was nothing to show that it was intended for the President, and he informs me that he never saw it. The copy appears to have been made in the Attorney General's office. Finding this copy open and without direction upon my desk, I presumed it was put there for my information, and accordingly I placed it in the hands of my counsel for such action as they might think proper in regard to it."

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 22, 1876.

EMMA MINE—STEWART'S TESTIMONY CONTINUED.

Ex-Senator Stewart was before the Committee on Foreign Affairs to-day, in relation to the Emma mine. It appeared from his testimony that after the negotiation was made with Albert Grant for putting stock on the market, it was agreed that General Schenck should have some of it, he having said he had money and would like to invest. He gave a circumstantial account of the appointment of the directors of the company, and stated that it was not by acquiring any interest that General Schenck became a director. The salary was $2,500, and General Schenck had time to attend to the business. He had no knowledge as to whether the General paid for the stock himself, but supposed that Park had arranged to carry the stock for him. He could not, however, state in what way. Witness read from Lyon's testimony and denied several statements therein.

He detailed the terms of the contract with Lyon, by which he was to relinquish his interest in the Emma mine. His said that consultations, or "English pulls," as they called them, were demanded by some of the bankers and nearly everybody with whom they came in contact. Jay Cooke & Co. demanded and got a half per cent. on sales. Pulls were also paid to Baron Grant, Lewis & Sons and others. Coates & Hankey, the parties who introduced them to Baron Grant, demanded 10,000 pounds for the introduction, but it was not paid. He was surprised at the amount of money they had to pay to numbers of people in England. He denied Lyon's statement that they gave Schenck five hundred shares of stock. Witness devoted his time to day merely to an emphatic denial of many of the main points of Lyon's testimony, and to show that Schenck was not a owner of stock long before the organization of the company and that he did not become a director until after the sale of the mine. He said it could not be true that Baron Grant went into the affair mainly on the statement that General Schenck was a director, for the reason that Schenck did not become a director until after the sale of the mine. He said that General Schenck's name was first suggested on the second or third of November, long after the company was organized.

Adjourned.

POST TRADERSHIPS—MORE TESTIMONY.

Dr. Bradford was before the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department to-day, and gave a statement relating to his appointment as a trader at Fort Craig and as to the money he had given the lobbyist Hawkins Taylor to procure it for him from the Secretary of War. Witness informed the Secretary that he was paying Taylor as his agent.

Mr. Bradford said he had agreed to pay Taylor $1,000 a year as long as he retained the tradership. He received the appointment at Fort Craig, but it was taken away from him after he had made an arrangement for goods, and given to a brother of Delegate Chavis, of New Mexico. Witness said that he sent a man, named C. C. Coggswell, to Mr. Belknap's residence after he [witness] had been removed; they had a stormy time; the Secretary remarked that he removed Bradford because he was a scalawag; Coggswell remarked that he had seen it stated in some newspaper that appointments could be procured for money, when the Secretary said it was a damned lie and he would whip the man who said so, and that he intended to run the Department as he pleased.

Mr. Weigle, of Baltimore, was next called, but his counsel not having been summoned by mistake, as he knew nothing of the transactions under investigation.

D. V. Peck testified that he received money from Dr. Bradford, and Hawkins Taylor, but disagreed with Bradford as to the amount.

John S. Evans was recalled and explained that Belknap did not personally introduce him to the Secretary of War, but had an interview with the Secretary the day before the witness called on the Secretary in relation to the post tradership at Fort Sill.

Adjourned.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

The joint resolution introduced by Senator Edmunds to-day proposes to substitute for Article XII of the Constitution, a new article, of which the main features are the following: The electors are to ballot in their respective States for President and Vice President, as at present, but the list of votes must be sent to the presiding Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, at a time and place to be fixed by law, is to publicly open all the certificates and count the votes, and the person having the greatest number of votes for President, considered by the court to have been lawfully given and certified, shall be President, if such number shall be at least one-half the whole number of electors lawfully appointed. If no person has such a majority, the state of the votes shall be immediately certified to the House of Representatives, which, from the persons having the highest number, not exceeding three, on the list of those voted for as President, shall choose a President immediately, by ballot. A quorum for the discharge of this duty shall consist of members from two-thirds of the States, and a majority of States shall be necessary to a choice. The person having the greatest number of votes for Vice President is elected. In case the House fails to elect before the fourth of March next following, then the Vice President shall act as President, as in case of the death or constitutional disability of the President. The person having the greatest number of electoral votes for Vice President, to be counted and determined as above provided, shall be Vice President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors. If no person is thus elected, the Senate is to choose a Vice President by a majority of its whole membership. Finally, it is provided that no Justice of the Supreme Court shall be eligible for election as President or Vice President until the expiration of two years after he shall cease to hold office.

CALEB P. MARSH ON THE STAND.

Caleb P. Marsh, being sworn, testified. He said: In Montreal I looked over the printed account of my testimony. With one inconsiderable addition, it is correct. The addition is that I returned to the Secretary of War, after I had gone to New York, with Mr. Evans and I requested the Secretary to make the appointment of Evans as a post trader at Fort Sill.

Question—Have you any objection to stating the nature of the interview you had with Mrs. Belknap, not of the Secretary of War. When I came here I called on her first, not on him. She had prevailed on him to give me the appointment. She said I had better go and see him. I did so. I had produced letters of recommendation from Judge Bohnman, of Cincinnati, and one possibly from Mr. Stevenson, but I do not recollect distinctly. Evans made his first quarterly payment to me a month or so after our contract. The first remittance I made was to Mrs. Belknap.

Chairman Hunton—Was the receipt of the express company is signed by W. W. Belknap.

Witness (continuing, surprised and somewhat disconcerted)—Then I am very much mistaken. My transaction was with her. I can't explain it if the package sent to Mrs. Belknap for Mr. Evans was afterward dismissed. Witness procured a tradership at Fort Stanton for R. M. Stevens, for which service he received one hundred dollars. Stevens, he said, however never took possession of the post and somebody else got the place. He tried to have Spiedelburg appointed at Fort Bingate, but did not succeed. He received one hundred and fifty dollars for that service. Subsequently having Col. Chas. Miller appointed post trader at Fort Barrett, and was paid one thousand dollars.

Adjourned.

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Question—Do you believe that the transmission of money to General Belknap was dishonorable?

Answer—I felt that if it should become known it would disgrace him.

Question—Was that the reason for destroying all the evidences of payment in your hands?

Answer—I should certainly say so.

Question—Why did you voluntarily, without solicitation, offer to General Belknap money, constituting a transaction that would disgrace him?

Answer—I do not know. The first money I sent was to Mrs. Belknap; the next was to General Belknap; whether this was in consequence of any arrangements with her, I cannot positively say. The nature of the transactions would be made public; I did not consider them criminal, though, if known, they would disgrace him.

Question—Can you state how you came to pay the Secretary the money?

Answer—It must have been in consequence of some arrangement on the night after the funeral of Mrs. Belknap, with Secretary Belknap or Mrs. Bower.

Question—Answer the question. "You must not let the Secretary know you are going to make me a present," and did not that imply that the Secretary would be offended?

Answer—I got some impression, when at the funeral, either from her or him, that I could send money to him.

Adjourned.

MR. PENDLETON TESTIFIES AGAIN.

George H. Pendleton was before a subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee tonight, consisting of Representatives Hunton, Lynde and Hoar. He testified that neither General Belknap nor any member of his family, immediately or remotely, received any money whatever from him resulting from the claim of the Kentucky Central Railroad. The other parts of the testimony were similar to that given before the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department, with the exception that some of the $30,000, the amounts or one of the drafts, was spent by him in the payment of private debts and the purchase of various articles, and the balance was taken by him to Europe.

NO TRUTH IN IT.

The Secretary of the Treasury says there is no truth in the report that the principal owner of a silver mine has made a proposition to furnish the Treasury with sixty millions' worth of gold and silver within eighteen months.

THE OHIO COAL STRIKE.

Violence in the Tuscarawas Valley.

CLEVELAND, March 22.—At an early hour this morning a body of armed men came to the canal bank at Silver Creek, in the Tuscarawas Valley, and compelled the miners who had gone to work at reduced prices to quit work. Several of the miners attempted to go into the mines and were severely beaten. It is supposed that the armed force was composed of striking miners from the Massillon district. A meeting of the coal operators controlling the greater part of the Tuscarawas Valley mines was held in this city to-day, at which it was determined to make another reduction of five cents per ton and give the miners until April 1st to accept. After that time, their places will be filled by outsiders. Trouble is anticipated.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, March 22, 1876.

POWDER EXPLOSION—FOUR MEN KILLED AND HALF A DOZEN WOUNDED.

This afternoon about four hundred pounds of "Jupiter" powder, stored in the mill of the Brick Powder Manufacturing Company, at Washingtonville, in the northern section of the city, exploded with great violence. Four men were literally blown to pieces, and half a dozen severely injured, of whom one or two will die. The mill was blown to pieces, and the buildings in its immediate vicinity were considerably shattered. Hardly enough of the remains of the victims could be collected on which to hold an inquest. The sound of the explosion was heard for miles around. The explosion is supposed to have resulted from too great friction in rubbing together the solid and fluid components.

LANCASTER.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

The Erie Platform Revised and Amended.

Jeremiah S. Black Laid on the Table.

William McClellan Chairman of State Committee.

LANCASTER, PA., March 22.—The Democratic State Convention met in Fulton Hall. Mr. H. B. Wright, Chairman of the State Central Committee, called the Convention to order at 10 o'clock A. M. Playford, of Fayette, was elected temporary Chairman by an almost unanimous vote. Mr. Playford returned thanks for the honor conferred upon him, counseled harmony, and advised the exposure of corruption wherever it existed. He said there should be no hesitancy in declaring for the right principles.

The following resolutions were adopted by a large majority:

That one representative from each Senatorial district be selected as a Committee on Credentials, Permanent Organization and Resolutions, and that resolutions be referred to the Convention without debate.

That the Convention select four Senatorial delegates to the National Convention and two Representative delegates from each Congressional district, and that the Convention select a Chairman of the State Central Committee.

A call of the roll showed about fifteen contested seats, most of them from Philadelphia and Lazerne. After the appointment of Committees on Credentials, Organization and Resolutions, the Convention adjourned until three o'clock.

On reassembling, Robert E. Monoghan was elected Permanent Chairman. Fifty Vice Presidents were chosen. The Committee on Credentials, not being ready to report, a recess was taken till 7:30 P. M.

On reassembling, the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the National Convention: Wm. A. Wallace, Hiester Clymer, A. H. Dill and H. M. Norin. Charles R. Buckalew was chosen to head the electoral ticket of Pennsylvania.

The following platform was adopted:

The Democracy of Pennsylvania records its devotion to all of the provisions of the Federal Constitution and to a perpetual Union of the States; pledges itself to rigid economy in the administration of the State and municipal Governments, to local self-government in every section, to the honest payment of the public debt and to a sound preservation of the public faith. They see with humiliation and alarm evidences of bribery, fraud and corruption in high places, rendering public servants and the widespread financial ruin that impends over the people of the State, and they charge that these evils are the direct consequence of unfaithful government, unwise legislation, vicious financial policy, extravagance and corruption of the Republican party. They declare,

First, That the civil service of the Government has become corrupt and is made the object of personal gain, and that infidelity to public trust has become the rule and not the exception. We believe that honesty, capacity and fidelity are the only tests of fitness for public station, and that wholesome penalties of law should be used with vigor to enforce official accountability.

Second, That unsettled exposures of frauds and corruption in the administration of public affairs call for a searching and thorough investigation of the conduct and condition of every branch of the public service, to the end that all corrupt practices may be brought to light and that all who have abused or betrayed their public trusts, whatever may be their station, may be exposed and punished, and we urge those in charge of this subject at Washington to a prompt, fearless and exhaustive examination of their respective fields of labor.

Third, That retrenchment and economy are indispensable in Federal, State and municipal administration, as the readiest means toward lessening the burdens of the people; and we commend the efforts of the majority of the House of Representatives in the last session of the Legislatures of the Federal Government to a just standard, and their determination to lessen the number of useless officials.

Fourth, that the amnesty to all persons implicated in the late rebellion against the Government of the United States, who have not already been relieved for the disabilities by the action of Congress and the President, would be an allowable and proper exercise of governmental power on the part of the celebration of American Independence, and that a recommendation of such a measure by President Grant, in a public message, and the indorsement of the same by the Republican House of Representatives, at a former session, constitute full proof that such a measure is fit, judicious and timely.

Fifth, A protest against the action of the State Constitution which protects not only the school funds but other public moneys from appropriation to sectarian uses, and declares the principle of Joseph N. Dubois' doctrine of the separation of Church and State which always has been a cardinal one with the Democratic party.

Sixth, That the statute for the resumption of specie payments on the 1st of January, 1879, is impossible to execute; it is a deliberate proposition to break up the business of the United States will go into bankruptcy; it paralyzes industry, creates distrust of the future, turns the laborer and producer out of employment, is a standing menace to our business men and ought to be forthwith repealed.

Seventh, That gold and silver are the only true basis for the currency of a free people, and that Congress should take such steps for the resumption of specie payments as will most surely and speedily reach this end, thereby destroying the business interests of the people.

Eighth, That the present depression of all our national industries, which checks the profitable employment of capital through the channels of enterprise, and denies to honest labor a decent livelihood, is the direct and inevitable fruit of the extravagance of reckless and dishonest legislation, tampering with the finances of the country; and with the incompetency, folly, and dishonesty of the administration of public affairs and a searching and thorough investigation of the conduct and condition of every branch of the public service, to the end that all corrupt practices may be brought to light and that all who have abused or betrayed their public trusts, whatever may be their station, may be exposed and punished, and we urge those in charge of this subject at Washington to a prompt, fearless and exhaustive examination of their respective fields of labor.

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METHODIST CONFERENCE.

Session of the Episcopal Body.

The fifty-second session of this large and influential body convened at Canton, Ohio, on Wednesday morning, March 15th, Bishops Merrill and Gilbert Haven present. The former had been assigned to the Presidency of the Conference by the Board of Bishops, but owing to a sudden ill-health, Bishop Haven was noticed and came to preside, if necessary, or assist him.

Bishop Haven conducted the Lord's Supper, assisted by several elders. At the close of this solemn service he called the Conference to order and officiated at the opening religious services.

Rev. Dr. I. C. Pershing, the Secretary of the last session, was denoted by the Bishop to call the roll, which comprises two hundred and eighty-nine ministers. Five were reported dead, and with a few exceptions the remainder of the list were present. The ministers who died during the year were: Rev. Wm. Clarke, W. R. Barcus, A. N. Galbraith, G. D. Linnear and E. M. Williams.

Dr. Pershing, as above, was unanimously elected Secretary, with authority to choose his assistants. He nominated his old associates, Rev. J. R. Mills, N. G. Miller and I. A. Pearce. Pershing has been elected Secretary for seventy-two years, consecutively, from 1804 to 76. This speaks volumes as to his competency and popularity. The position is laborious and requires peculiar talent to fill acceptably.

The Presiding Elders were constituted a committee to nominate standing committees, viz: R. L. Miller, on behalf of the Presiding Elders, announced the names of the committees: Stewards, ministerial and lay, Church extension, Education, Pittsburgh *Christian Advocate*, Public Worship, Conference Auditors, Missions, Ladies and Pastors' Christian Union, Books and Periodical Accounts, Temperance, Centenary, Tracts, Bethel Causes, Bible Cause, Sunday School Union, Freedmen, Tract society, State of the Church, Memoirs and Publishing Minister.

The Bishop announced the transfer of Rev. A. Pearce from the St. Louis Conference to its body.

The eighth question was taken up. "Who of supernumerary preachers, and Revs. A. J. Cook, L. Dallas, H. Long, S. Baker, J. W. Charman and E. R. Jones were examined, passed, and, on motion, their relation continued. Rev. L. H. Baker, T. N. Eaton, J. Wright and A. Lowman, on this lists, were made effective. Rev. J. W. Charlton, at his own request is located.

The Standing Committees meet this afternoon, organize and enter upon their duties. The opening Rev. J. A. Swaney preaches the annual Missionary service.

Bishop Simpson is expected to-morrow (Thursday) and other distinguished ministerial visitors.

The Lay Electoral Conference meets on Friday morning.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

The sturdy city of Canton is all agog in consequence of the session of the Conference. The citizens are entertaining the ministers and lay in grandly. The Conference and visiting members exceed three hundred. Every train brings layman-delegates to the Electoral Lay Conference, which meets on Friday. Between one and two hundred laymen will be delegates. This body is composed of one layman from each charge, (station or circuit), who are elected by the Quarterly Conferences. The Lay Electoral Conference meets only once every four years, to elect two delegates to the General Conference and alternates. This body often risks suggestions to the General Conference, but has no legislative power, it can only recommend action. Five were reported elected, but with a few exceptions the remainder of the list were present. The ministers who died during the year were: Rev. Wm. Clarke, W. R. Barcus, A. N. Galbraith, G. D. Linnear and E. M. Williams.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1876.

THE foreign exports of Philadelphia, last week, amounted to $630,097.

IT WILL probably be made to appear in a few days that a certain Southern Democratic United States Senator obtained his seat as the result of a corrupt bargain. The indications point that sorrowful way.

THE Supreme Court of this State, *in banc*, has just affirmed a judgment making the late Recorder of Philadelphia responsible for the amount of a mortgage on a piece of property omitted in a certificate of search issued from his office.

THE foreign commerce of New York, last week, was: Merchandise imports, $8,314,247; produce exports, $3,835,594, and specie exports, $1,140,372. The total imports since the first of January were $73,996,194, against $82,004,671 in 1875, and $88,108,851 in 1874. The exports of produce were $51,152,655, against $49,730,342 in 1875, and $57,501,948 in 1874, and the total exports of specie were $10,763,866, against $15,047,063 in 1875, and $6,787,350 in 1874.

PENDLETON'S weakness was a railroad claim; TILDEN'S besetting sin was an irresistible tendency to pocket the proceeds of the bonds of a railroad company of which he was the attorney, and HENDRICK'S particular vice was army contracts for Gatling guns and the like. As the party seems particularly unfortunate in its prospective candidates, why shouldn't it fall back upon FERNANDO WOOD, an unexceptionally pure man?

THE Cincinnati *Gazette* prints a definite and circumstantial statement from a correspondent concerning certain alleged business operations of Governor HENDRICKS, of Indiana, which, if true, show that he has been guilty of a gross breach of trust to a water works company in which he was interested, and of consenting to, if not actually co-operating in, very dishonest transactions. We sincerely trust the correspondent has been misinformed. The slaughter of reputations among Democratic aspirants is dreadful enough, now, without adding to the number of the slain.

THAT was a neat retort of one of the brethren at a down-east religious meeting the other day, who, after listening to a powerful homily from another religious brother on wickedness in high places, in which the speaker declared that the Administration had stolen and squandered one-half of the public property, replied: "I was pleased with the remarks of the brother who just sat down, and bless the Lord for the Republican Administration, for if it had been a Democratic Administration in power, they would have stolen the whole; nothing would have been left."

MR. LILLY, a regular broker in cadetships, and the witness mainly relied upon to convict HAYES, of Alabama, of taking pay for an appointment to West Point, testified on Thursday last before the Congressional Committee that he had been long engaged in the business; had received large sums of money, and obtained many appointments, but that he never paid money to a Congressman, except in one instance. He did pay $600 to COFFROTH, a Democratic member from Pennsylvania in the Thirty-ninth Congress. The line of investigation has thus hit a Democrat instead of a Republican, as was intended. This is Democratic luck, just now.

THE Montgomery (Ala.) *Journal* says: "The air about Atlanta appears just now to be full of dark and ugly rumors of corruption and bribery." It appears, also, from the special Southern correspondent of the New York *Herald*, that not a cent of the proceeds of the property of ex-Governor BULLOCK and other Republicans who were driven out of the State, confiscated and sold by the Democrats when they came into power, has ever found its way into the State Treasury, it being all stolen by Democratic officials. The defalcation of the present Democratic State Treasurer is $300,000, besides large frauds in State bonds. Georgia is the model Democratic State of the South.

IT IS now about time for the preachments over the wickedness and extravagance of society in Washington to cease. It is probable that, upon the whole, people average about as well there as they do in New York and Philadelphia, or other large cities. The fact is that the vice of fast living has infested the whole land. The farmer who dresses his boys and girls beyond his means is equally culpable with the Cabinet minister who tries to live at the rate of $20,000 on an income of $10,000. Everyone is more or less guilty. We have all been trying to get rich too fast, and living beyond our means, or falling down on our knees before some golden calf, which, indeed, is the weakness of a large class who cannot get money themselves—grovel-ing before the successful thieves who become millionaires. But it is never too late to mend; and true reform, like true charity, always begins at home. It is time to take a reef in our flowing criticism.

THE decision of the House Committee on Commerce not to increase the fire test of petroleum transported on steamboats to 150° Farenheit, as proposed in the amendment to the Steamboat law, appears to give general satisfaction. They have decided to let the standard remain at 110°, and require that all petroleum shall be transported on steamboats in tin cans. The same committee have decided to modify the section of the bill relating to liability, so as to provide that the owner or owners of a vessel on which damages are sustained shall be liable to an amount equal to the value of their interest in the vessel and freight, instead of an amount equal to double the value of their interest. In this respect ocean-going vessels, lake vessels and river boats are placed on an equality. Unlimited liability will fall only in cases where officers or owners of the vessel are found guilty of default or neglect in conforming to the requirements of the law.

THE London *Investor's Manuel* place the amounts of instalments called during the present month on account of securities recently negotiated there at £2,176,000, or about $10,000,000 in gold. These transactions obviously have a very important bearing on the exchange market, and must be regarded as having to their full amount prevented the export of specie. From the best information obtainable, however, the whole of this sum has been already drawn against, and its full effect on the exchanges has therefore been already felt. According to the New York *Bulletin*, the amounts payable in January were £828,750, and in February £675,000; which, added to the March payments, makes a total of £3,679,750, or nearly $18,000,000 in gold, paid on account of subscriptions to American loans during the first quarter of the year; showing that, in spite of the discredit arising from the late extraordinary suspension of railroads, our well established roads can still borrow large amounts in the London market.

THIS is the year of the Presidential election in Mexico, which principally accounts for the revolution that has lately broken out in that Republic. The two great political parties in that country are known as that of the *botas*, or boots, such as are worn in civilized countries, and that of the *guaraches*, the guarache being a rawhide sandal which laboring Mexicans are in the habit of wearing. The *botas* have now administered affairs ever since the empire was overthrown. The leaders are, for the most part, the wealthiest men in the different States and large towns. They have inaugurated many reforms; are doing the best they can to make things orderly and civilized, and at the same time, enrich themselves out of the revenues of the country. In Mexico, besides import and export duties on all commercial transactions with foreign countries, there are tariff duties on goods passing from one State to another, which makes it very good picking for the officials who happen to be in power; especially as the Government does not pay interest or principal on its obligations, and, nine or ten months of the year, lets its soldiers forage for provisions and wages.

THE object of CLYMER in permitting MARSH and his wife to escape to Canada was not, as at first supposed, to save BELKNAP, but to prevent the exposure of PENDLETON. When General KIDDOO told CLYMER, during the BELKNAP investigation, that there was as strong a case against PENDLETON as against the Secretary of WAR, and that Mrs. MARSH could furnish the evidence, CLYMER showed no willingness to follow the scent thus opened by KIDDOO, but did his best to hurry Mr. and Mrs. MARSH out of the country. Their escape, it is true, defeated the prosecution of BELKNAP; but then it saved PENDLETON, as CLYMER thought, and the latter would infinitely prefer to see every other guilty man escape if, thereby, he could save a Democratic Presidential candidate from exposure. This was CLYMER'S purpose; but somehow the story got out, and PENDLETON was compelled to seek an investigation, much to the chagrin of his Democratic friend from Berks. The result has been exactly the reverse of what was expected, and is an illustration of the awful failure that occasionally attends upon the best laid schemes. In spite of all precautions the engineer will, sometimes, get hoisted with his own petard.

THE PAYNE BILL.

The effort of the Democrany in Congress to agree upon the finance question, has ended in a proposed compromise, to which the soft money men will not agree. The hard money Democrats yield sufficiently to abandon all their distinctive opinions, but they do not yield enough to satisfy their opponents. The result is that the whole matter will be thrown into Congress, to be wrangled over and discussed until every one is disgusted, each Democratic member being left free to vote as he pleases.

The PAYNE bill, which the majority of the Democratic members have agreed to support, is, like all compromises, neither one thing nor another. It is not for hard money, it is not for resumption, it is not for inflation, and it is not in favor of supplanting national bank notes with greenbacks. So far, it pleases neither the hard money nor the soft money men; and the one or two points which it favors are of that half-way kind which practically are worse than the positive measures of either faction.

The distinctive features of the PAYNE bill are the repeal of the Resumption clause of the act of 1875, leaving the time of resumption to be fixed hereafter, and adding in lieu of it a section compelling the national banks to accumulate a coin reserve of five per cent. annually on their circulation.

This amounts, in short, to an indefinite postponement of resumption, and the means prescribed by the bill for preparing systematically for specie payments, are worse than the policy of the act of 1875 fixing a positive date for a return to coin redemption. The terror inspired by the approach of January 1, 1879, when we must resume whether ready for it or not, is gotten rid of; but in its stead we have a worse terror in the accumulation of dead capital in the banks, in the shape of the yearly sequestration of 5 per cent. in coin on the amount of national bank circulation.

The blunder of the act of 1875 was in naming a day for resumption; and the blunder of the PAYNE bill is in attempting to force an accumulation of gold in the national banks. If we were possible to cure one blunder with another, this bill might prove a benefit: but that being impossible, the effect of the PAYNE bill must be to leave the matter in a worse shape than before.

The policy of Mr. MCCULLOCH, when he was Secretary of the Treasury, in forcing a contraction of the national currency at the rate of four millions a month by hiding away greenbacks to that amount in the vaults of the Treasury, was a similar policy to that now proposed, excepting that MCCULLOCH hived away greenbacks and the PAYNE bill secretes gold. The one policy contracted the currency in circulation, the other proposes to contract the gold in circulation. Either policy is a policy of contraction. The mercantile world cried out against MCCULLOCH'S plan, until Congress was compelled to abrogate it; and it will cry out in like manner against PAYNE'S plan, if it should ever go into operation. The hoarding of about twenty millions of coin every year would materially diminish the coin supply and force up the premium; and if it is true, as is alleged, that the country contains but little over forty millions of surplus gold, the demand for it to form the bank reserve would inevitably force up the premium and so render resumption more difficult than it is now.

There is, in fact, no royal road to the resumption of coin payments, and the effects of a long and expensive war upon trade and commerce cannot be remedied by legislation. A nation so deeply in debt as ours is much better employed in paying off its debts and relieving the burdens of its people than in quarreling over a way to do an impossible thing. The only safe thing to do is to encourage home industry so as to set every man to work, and leave the currency alone until the nation, through national prosperity, gets able to redeem it. The whole of this continual blustering about the finances springs from the foolish haste to do things out of and before their time. The nation must get upon its feet before it can go on, and it must get over its pecuniary reverses before it undertakes to do what only a prosperous people can do. A suspension of specie payments has followed every panic heretofore, and resumption has never been practicable while the people were struggling to recover from their reverses.

Let us bide our time; and meanwhile a protective tariff will do more to render specie payments practicable than all the legislation yet attempted by Congress or that it is likely to attempt.

SOME weeks ago we condensed from a lengthy article in the Chicago *Tribune* an account of a new Chicago invention for the consumption of smoke in coal burning, and the estimated saving in cost of carrying on any manufacturing business, as well as in the consumption of fuel for house purposes. It was shown in the article referred to, that with the use of the patented device for consuming smoke there was a great possibility that soft coal could be used as economically as anthracite, with no more annoyance from smoke and soot. The same paper now gives the results of a prolonged series of experiments instituted to show the exact comparative value of soft coal as between the several varieties, and also between the soft and hard coal. All the experiments were made at the city water works, under the boilers of which the patent device for consuming smoke had been applied. The *Tribune* says:

"The trials were begun February 19, and continued to the 24th of the same month, or five full days, with Laurel Hill soft coal. This variety costs in this market $5 50 per ton. In the five days there was consumed 416,270 pounds, and with this 200,492,439 gallons of water were raised. In order to get as a very close test of the amount of water converted into steam by each kind of coal, a water meter was attached to one boiler, and the fuel used under that was weighed separately and compared with the amount of coal consumed. In the five days' test with Laurel Hill the meter showed that 19,780 cubic feet of water had been vaporized with 140,990 pounds of coal. The cubic foot of water weighs near enough 62 pounds for purposes of calculation, and therefore it appears that 1,226,360 pounds of water were raised by 140,990 pounds of this kind of coal, or 8.7 pounds of water for each one of coal.

Having gotten the record of Laurel Hill, the persons having the matter in charge proceeded to experiment with the soft coal of this State, and began February 24th to use Minonk coal. The experiments lasted through February 28th; but, since there was no record of the 26th, the figures are given for four days. During that time 410,860 pounds of Minonk coal were used, and 157,286,446 gallons of water raised. Taking as before the showing made by the boiler with water meter attached, and it appears that under it 113,370 pounds of coal were burned, and 12,168 cubic feet of water vaporized therewith. Reducing the water to pounds and calculating as in the previous case, the result would be to show 6.6 pounds of water converted into steam for each pound of coal. The cost of coal costs $3 60 per ton, and consequently it appears that to raise each million gallons costs $4 76—about half the cost of anthracite.

February 28 and March 1, Wilmington, Ill., coal was used, but in this case the record was complete for only the latter day. On that day 115,400 pounds of coal were used and 40,041,562 gallons of water were raised. The water meter showed 2,695 cubic feet, or 167,090 pounds of water converted into steam by 28,200 pounds of coal, or 5.9 pounds of water for each pound of coal. This coal cost $3 50 per ton, and the cost of raising each 1,000,000 gallons of water was, therefore, $5 04.

March 2 and 3 Laurel Hill nut coal was used, but the records are complete only for the first-named day, when 91,780 pounds were used to raise 46,157,784 gallons of water. The test meter at the water works showed 3,069 cubic feet, or 190,278 pounds of water, vaporized by 25,070 pounds of coal, which would give seven pounds to each pound of coal. The coal costs $4 75, and the price for raising each 1,000,000 gallons of water was, therefore, $5 43.

The next two days, March 4 and 5, the Shawnee coal from the Indiana and Ohio road was used and 182,020 pounds were consumed in raising 77,277,558 gallons of water. The meter showed that 52,380 pounds of coal converted 6,235 cubic feet, or 386,570 pounds of water, into steam. This would give 7.4 pounds of water for each pound of coal burned. This coal cost $2 60 a ton, and the expense of raising a million gallons of water with it was therefore $5 77.

In order to show the comparative economy of soft and hard coal, the record of March 6 and 7, when Lackawanna was used, is added. During this time 181,090 pounds of coal were used, and the amount of water raised was 81,171,797 gallons. The meter record showed 6,759 cubic feet, or 419,068 pounds of water, were turned into steam by the consumption of 52,780 pounds of coal, or 7.9 pounds of water per pound of coal. The cost of the anthracite was eight dollars per ton, and the cost of raising each million feet of water was therefore eight dollars and ninety-two cents, or nearly twice as much as when Illinois coal was used."

The economical results of these experiments may, without exaggeration, be termed extraordinary; and, in view of the additional fact that an almost perfect consumption of smoke is effected, the invention would seem destined to general adoption in manufacturing establishments where bituminous coal is used.

THE Democratic papers say that the New Hampshire election was carried by the Republicans "by the most shameless corruption and bribery."

It is a sure sign of a complete Republican victory when the Democrats suffer themselves to talk in this way. They own up to the utter helplessness of their organization, and their inability to hold their men in the party traces.

If bribery was practiced, as alleged, it was used solely upon Democrats. The Republicans did not need to bribe their own men, and the Democrats, in making the charge, confess that the rank and file of the Democratic party in New Hampshire can be bought and sold like sheep in the shambles. They are, their own leaders being judges, a marketable commodity. They sell their birthrights, like ESAU, for a mess of potsage, and hold their principles at the cheapest possible market rate.

We do not believe that the charge is true; but those who are charged with the shameless profligacy of selling their votes must remember that the indictment against them is presented by their own party managers, who, having lost their battle, turn upon and traduce the soldiers who served under them.

The allegation, therefore, is a mere trick of bad generals to account for an overwhelming defeat; but if the country should accept it as true it follows that the Democratic party is corrupt to the core. If the rank and file cannot be trusted, the officers must be considered to be as bad as their men. To entrust the Government to a party which thus confesses itself to be corrupt would be political suicide.

While the country knows that the Democratic leaders are corrupt, it will hesitate to accept any such cowardly plea for the New Hampshire defeat. The party was beaten, there, simply because it nominated a traitor for Governor and backed him up with the support of Confederate sputters. It was BEN HILL'S speeches in Congress and the bad conduct of the House of Representatives at Washington, under Confederate control, that defeated the Democrats in that State. The people revolted at the prospect of the Government passing under the control of the Southern rebels, and they took the only method open to them of rebuking the party that subjected itself to the reproach of disloyalty.

The result of the New Hampshire election has this significance and no other. There was no bribery and corruption, but there was a spirited reaction against the present tendency of the Democratic party to follow HILL and GORDON and LAMAR, to be reduced, eventually, to South ern control and leadership. It needed no bribes to bring thinking and sensible men to a natural distrust of the Democratic party, and they showed their faith by their works in giving to the Republicans of New Hampshire a majority larger than any heretofore given at a State election. The Democratic managers will be wise to accept the result in this view, instead of befouling their own nest by denouncing their own men as corrupt.

A YOUNG man in New York, who had been convicted of a heinous crime, declared, on being brought up for sentence a few days ago, that he attributed his downward career to his early acquired thirst for reading "sensational literature." It is not difficult to believe this may have been the case; and, as conscientious journalists, we enter a solemn protest against this kind of reading for the young of either sex. Every parent should bar admission to such poisonous trash to his household as he would the most deadly of opiates. Papers are published and circulated that are a burning disgrace to a Christian people, the tendency of which is to demoralize, corrupt and brutalize the mind. Illustrations in which pistols, daggers, bowie knives, scalping, murders, abductions and worse, form the chief and most attractive features, are constantly obtruded upon the attention of the reader, and it is inevitable that the seed thus sown shall in time produce fruit of its kind. And yet we wonder at crime. Pondered in silence, at the fireside of a respectable period of life, these miserable outgrowths necessarily leave an indelible stain upon the soul. In our prisons and reformatories the testimony of criminals is numerable is that such literature was the cause of their downfall. JESSE POMEROY, in whose young conscience the blood of several victims undoubtedly rests, was corrupted by the yellow-backed novel. The trial developed the fact that he had been accustomed to read books which paralled the riot of human passions, and the habit of the child to picture himself, that he might revel alone in the pictures of cruelty they presented. At this fire his love of suffering was inflamed, until ultimately he out-Heroded HEROD. PHILIP SPENCER, the son of an honored and distinguished public official, owed his untimely fate, under the charge of a most atrocious crime, to the influence upon his mind of a published pirate's journal. COURVOISIER, the murderer of Lord WILLIAM RUSSELL, confessed that the reading of "Jack Shephard" first incited the devilish deed. One OXFORD, who sought the life of QUEEN VICTORIA, made substantially the same statement respecting the influence upon his mind of the "Bravo of Venice." To such men as EUGENE SUE, the author of the "Mysteries of Paris," and to his less notorious associates, who have added "The Mysteries of the Court of the Georges," "The Mysteries of New York," "New Orleans," and "London" may also be traced the ruin of thousands. An endless issue of demoralizing, trashy literature, greedily swallowed by the young and old, is the curse of our country.

THE more that is known about the recovery of the claim of the Kentucky Railroad by PENDLETON, the less creditable does it seem to the fine moral sense of this distinguished leader of the Democracy. It is evident that the whole matter ought to receive a searching investigation, such as CLYMER and BLACKBURN took very good care *not* to make. The New York *Evening Mail* of Saturday prints a letter from Washington relative to new discoveries, from which it appears that when the money was paid to the President of the road, who paid himself one-half the whole claim for doing just what it was his duty to do as President of the road, on a salary of $6,000 a year, he knew that neither he, nor those that he represented, were the lawful owners of the road, and had no legal or moral right to be paid the amount of the claim as a matter of law. The whole story of the manner in which PENDLETON'S friends and relatives got possession of the road is, it is stated, quite familiar to the courts of Kentucky, and it was the knowledge of the invalidity of their title, and of the certainty of the adverse decision of the Court of Appeals, which led Mr. BOWLER to place so low an estimate upon his interest in the claim against the Government. The United States, therefore, is in the position of having paid the claim to those who were not legally the representatives of the genuine stockholders of the road. Subsequently to all this business, and by means of treachery on the part of another agent of the genuine stockholders, these persons, it is affirmed, did acquire a controlling interest in the road; but the assertion is made, as of a well known fact established by decision of the Court of Appeals of Kentucky, that at the time PENDLETON induced the Government to hand over to him the amount of money belonging to the Central Kentucky, he knew that the persons he represented had no right to it. The other official of the road who was paid $15,000 by President PENDLETON, was paid out of the half which the latter did not take, and was paid this fee in addition to his regular salary. So that, in the end, these illegal owners were cheated almost as badly as the real owners. It is also stated that $30,000 of the money received by PENDLETON has been traced into the hands of Mrs. BELKNAP, then known as Mrs. BOWERS, and that she invested the money through MARSH. If the House has any sense of dignity or decency left it will appoint a non-partisan committee to probe the whole matter to the bottom.

AND now another prominent Democratic candidate for the Presidency has been caught with tar on his heels. The Chicago *Times* recently printed a letter from St. Louis which charged that TILDEN, as one of the directors of the Terre Haute, Alton and St. Louis Railroad, had been engaged in defrauding the stockholders of that company. The charge was in effect that of misappropriating trust funds by the managers, by taking up some $280,000 worth of surplus bonds for their private benefit, when the bonds were not necessary to the purposes of the company, and giving no consideration for them. We now observe that a bill in equity, setting forth these facts, has just been prepared against himself and associate trustees, in the United States Circuit Court of New York. It is understood that the Legislature of that State meditates investigating the matter. Racy developments are expected, but it is not likely that the wily "reform" shyster will be caught by any investigating committee. The *Commercial Advertiser* says:

"It is true he has pocketed an unknown quantity of dollars, and has refused to account for them to the persons whose right it is to make that request. It is also true that he took these dollars without authority; that he swooped down upon them like a unclean bird, but whoever thinks that Mr. Tilden cannot produce claims for all he got, evidently does not know the man. It may be said by these people that he was only entitled to $20,000; that an agreement was entered into that his fees as counsel should not exceed that sum, but it must be remembered that he was afterwards one of a purchasing committee which held the road in its grasp, and in that capacity he ran up an account with such rapidity that bonds could not be issued fast enough to pay him. Oh no! nothing will be found against Mr. Tilden. He assumed the title of 'honest man' long after his transactions with that unhappy road, and he is such a straightforward individual that he would not take a cent if he could not invent a specious claim for it. Of course it will be interesting to witness the Governor's ingenuity in constructing his claims, and for this reason, and this alone, we hope the Legislature will demand an investigation."

"One by one the roses fade." HENDRICKS, PENDLETON, TILDEN. Next!

THE New York Legislature recently passed a bill having for its object the diminishing of crime and the burdens heaped upon the State in consequence, and of transforming convicts into industrious and useful men. The measure was carefully prepared by a number of philanthropic gentlemen who have pondered much over the condition of the inmates of the penal institutions and almshouses of that State, and have sought to do what was possible to provide for them some system of productive industry which should at once operate as a salutary discipline and contribute to their own support. But, alas, the shallow pretense that the present is not the time for the State to enter into competition with private citizens, and to force pauper labor into a struggle against orderly artisans and workingmen, Governor TILDEN has vetoed the measure, thus sounding the knell of many a poor wretch for whom there was a hope of moral reconstruction and rehabilitation. A fitting comment on this miserable bid for votes, regardless of those on whom the burdens of taxation fall, is found in the annual report of the New York Prison Association, just published, which says:

"Depraved men may object to anything that will bring the labor of the prisoner into competition with that outside, or the mechanic who has learned his trade in the prison in competition with the man who has acquired his knowledge through a regular course of apprenticeship; but no right-minded, fair-thinking man will, for a moment, believe that such considerations as the labor market could in any way affect values, or act to the prejudice of the honest mechanic."

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Old Father Winter is after that young hopeful sprig, Spring, with a big icicle.

The cattle drive from Texas for the coming season foots up an aggregate of 258,000 head.

If it were not for Chorpenning, what proud eminence might Jere Black not aspire to now?

Now must Chicago be purified! Storey, of the *Times*, has been made a member of its grand jury.

General Dan. Sickles is coming home. Now the Democratic press will have somebody to pitch into.

If Clymer doesn't crawl out from under the debris pretty soon, it will be in order to dig for the remains.

Political conventions, county and State, are becoming as numerous as catbirds in a cherry tree in fruit time.

Ell Perkins says he can "take a joke." That's quite true: he takes all his jokes and doesn't credit them.

The supreme iniquity is reached, and we have handkerchiefs with pictures of the everlasting Centennial buildings.

There are about as many candidates for the Governorship of Missouri as there were brigadiers in the rebel army.

It is stated that there has been a marked increase of insanity in New York since the opening of the Moody and Sankey revival services.

A new disease of the head and jaws has broken out among the hogs, in the West. A similar disease prevails largely in Congress.

There were no deaths from accident or violence in Boston last week, a circumstance that has not happened before for eighteen years.

Recent developments have fully established one thing, namely, that wherever you find a Republican thief you find also a Democratic tempter or parasite.

A magnificent silver set, presented to George Washington by his friends, is to be exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition. Wonder whether they were bribes?

Marsh is *en route* from Canada for Washington:

"By the pricking of my thumbs
Something wicked this way comes."

It is a curious but significant fact that the air in the hall of the lower branch of Congress was never so poisonous as since we have had a Democratic majority there.

Last year the following nations sent us contributions of citizens in the order of numerical importance: Germany, England, Ireland, Canada, China, France, Russia.

The gas war has struck St. Louis. Frauds on the city, amounting to over $1,000,000, have been discovered, and it is charged that the company has mutilated its books to conceal them.

And now the sentimental papers will be remarking that winter is lingering in the lap of spring, while the practical ones will observe that these late spring snows are good for the crops.

One of the first cares of the Legislature of Michigan was to direct the State Geologist to "report all valuable gold mines to the Governor," but up to date he has done nothing of the kind.

Was it Pendleton, or Clymer, to whom Sheridan had prophetic reference when he said: "Though I never scruple to lie to serve a friend it hurts one's conscience to be found out?"

Ben Hill is going to make another Republican speech. He will deliver the address on the 26th of April, on the occasion of the decoration of the graves of the Confederate dead at Columbus, Ga.

Creditors hang on worse than ever this season. The Detroit *Post* tells of a Michigan lumberman who takes a solemn oath that he is still dunned for $15 by the ghost of a cousin who died five years ago.

The survivors of Andersonville anticipate that their meeting at Norwich, Connecticut, April 12th will be largely attended and important. People as far South as Texas and as far West as Wyoming are coming.

When Butler wrote of the perils that do environ the man who meddles with cold iron, did he have a prophetic vision of the trouble with which the iron rail and the iron horse would encompass Tilden and Pendleton?

Bad luck consists in keeping your hands folded and grumbling because the world does not use you well. Good luck consists in doing anything that you can find to do, and doing it faithfully, until something better offers.

Was there ever a more beautiful disquisition on the Divine patience than that embodied in the exclamation of a poor little black, the other day: "I'll tell you what, if God was quick tempered some folks would get hurt."

Getting down to the root of the matter. An English peasant who recently wrestled for a long time with a very tough piece of oak, on which he had been unable to make any impression, at last burst out with the imprecation: "Dom they pigs that didn't eat thee when thou wast an acorn."

The voluble horror of the Democrats at Republican corruption recalls Pope's stinging description of an opposition reformer of his day:

"Thro' clouds of passion, P——'s views are clear,
He foams a patriot to subside a peer;
Impatient sees his country bought and sold,
And damns the market where he takes no gold."

Make a penny when you can,
'Tis useful as a tool is;
But who say's money makes the man,
A meager-witted fool is.
Rich is he whose genial breast,
With liberal salutation,
Hath welcomed all that's bright and best
Throughout the wide creation.

(From the Soldiers' and Sailors' Journal.)

MY SWORD SONG.

BY RICHARD REALF.

Day in, day out, through the thraed campaign,
I move in my place in the ranks;
And whether it shine or whether it rain,
My stained sword cheerily clanks.
It clanks and clangs in a knightly way,
Like the ring of an armored heel;
And this is the song which, day by day,
It sings with its lips of steel:

O friend from whom, an hundred times,
I have felt the strenuous grip
Of the all-renouncing love that climbs
To pinnacled fellowship,
Are you tired with crawling the dreadful miles,
Are you faint with your swooning limbs?
Do you hunger back for the olden smiles,
The savor of olden hymns?

Has your heart grown weak since the sovereign hour
When you leapt, with a conquering bound,
From your dainty ease to the poignant power
Of an aching soul flame-crowned?
Behold! the alces of sacrifice
Are better than any wine;
And the bloody sweat of a Cause like this,
Is an agony Divine.

Under the wall of the shuddering world,
A-moaning for its dead sons:
Over the horrible thunders hurled
From the throats of frenzied guns;
Above the roar of the plunging life
That rocks with the fury of hell,
Runs the Absolute Voice—O Earth of Mine,
Be patient, for All is Well!

Thus sings my Sword to my Soul: and I,
Albeit the way is long,
And wild clouds inken athwart the sky,
Still keep my spirit strong.
For whether I live, or whether I lie
On the soaked ground, ghastly and stark,
Beyond the carnage I shall descry
God, streaming across the dark.

CHICKAMAUGA, 1863.

STATE NEWS.

Wilkesbarre talks of building a Presbyterian Seminary.

Warren county is going to have a new $75,000 court house.

Scarlet fever is prevalent in several townships in Berks county.

The prospects for a large wheat crop in Lycoming county, are encouraging.

The Rainbow Fire Company, in Reading, was organized on St. Patrick's Day in 1773.

Of fifty-eight pupils in a school in Berks county all but eight are ill with scarlet fever.

Mr. John A. Wilson, a well known young business man of New Castle, died on the 11th inst.

The York *True Democrat* says that "York is bright with the light of the good times coming."

A pocket knife nearly one hundred years old, belonging to a Reading gentleman, contains thirty-two small steel blades.

The Chester County Agricultural Society have definitely decided upon the time for their spring fair, the dates being June 22, 23 and 24.

A "Home for Aged Couples," where man and wife will not be separated in their old age, has been established in Philadelphia.

There is an advertised letter in the Danville postoffice for Joseph Kmigietski, Joseph doesn't call for it for fear of dislocating his jaws.

The Marshal of Chester can find no law to prevent an old lady from smoking in church and he gave one a pound of tobacco the other Sunday if she would quit.

Mrs. Ann Fizone, of Philadelphia, celebrated her 100th birthday on the 17th inst. She was born in that city, and retains all her faculties.

General Harry White has been selected to deliver the oration at the commencement exercises of the Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, in June next.

Samuel Conner, aged seventy years, fell down a coal shaft in Neshannock township, Lawrence county, on the 15th inst., and had his skull crushed and neck broken.

From 1870 to 1875, inclusive, the number of writs of error, certioraries and appeals received by the Supreme Court from Philadelphia was 1,178, and the number argued was 930.

Andrew Law was knocked down from a bridge into the river near Scranton, on the 16th inst., by a locomotive and was killed. His companion, Archibald Blair, was probably fatally injured.

Levi Jones, a litigious individual of Mercer, has just emerged from a lawsuit which he started about a dog, and came out second best after paying four hundred and seventy dollars.

The Warren *Ledger* says: On the 6th of June the different bands of Erie, Chatauqua, Crawford and Warren counties will hold a convention here, winding up with a grand musical parade.

Mrs. Nancy Eckert, the last survivor of the Brady family of the West Branch valley, died recently in Lycoming county. She was the granddaughter of Captain John Brady, the Indian fighter.

Edward Hiskey has brought suit against Reuben Wanner, of Leesport, to recover $6,000 damages for injuries received by being upset by a pile of dirt on the street, thrown out of a cellar Wanner was excavating.

Henry A. Brown, a well known Philadelphia printer, died on the 16th inst., aged seventy-six years. He was for many years foreman of the *Ledger* composing room, and later connected with the *Inquirer* job room.

On Monday night, 13th inst., the house of the Polish priest of Shamokin, was attacked and several shots fired into the bed room of the priest, two entering the head board of his bed. The would-be assassins escaped without identification.

Philadelphia has a fair share of medical colleges. The number of those institutions in full blast in the Quaker City is seven, and the number of graduates they turned forth out as defenders of life during the present year is exactly five hundred and fourteen.

The Phœnix Iron Company, Phœnixville, are building two immense iron observatories, each 226 feet high, for Fairmount Park. One of the towers is to be placed over the Schuylkill, and the other upon Lemon hill. The observatories are being constructed for different parties.

The Mercer *Dispatch* says: Uncle John Young, of Wilmington township, has lived to a ripe old age, being at present well on toward five score. He has seen seven generations of his relations, as follows: Grandmother, mother, sister, niece, grand-niece, great-grand-niece and great-great-grand-niece. Mr. Young still enjoys tolerable health, is in possession of all his faculties, and promises many years of usefulness yet.

Gov. Hartranft has signed the pardon of the three Commissioners of Schuylkill county, convicted of malfeasance in office. It was unanimously recommended by the Board of Pardons, and advocated by ex-Senator Randall, Representative Losch and the entire delegation from Schuylkill county in the Legislature.

A bequest of $10,000 made by Isaac Ford, of Philadelphia, recently deceased, to the Crozer Theological Seminary at Upland, Delaware county, Pa., and one of $1,000 to the Fifth Baptist Church, of Philadelphia, have been declared void because the will was dated March 4th, and Mr. Ford died on the 6th, two days after. According to law a full calendar month must elapse between the making of the will and the death of the testator.

INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS NOTES.

The cut of lumber on the Kennebec this season is 50,000,000 feet, against 100,000,000 feet cut last season.

The shipments of lumber from Williamsport over the Philadelphia and Reading and Philadelphia and Erie Railroads have reached one million feet daily of late.

The Huntingdon, Pa., *Journal* says the creditors of Major H. S. Wharton, with scarcely an exception, have authorized the assignees to re-convey the shoe factory and tannery property to him for a period of three years, to enable him to pay his indebtedness.

A rich vein of iron ore is reported to have been recently discovered in the lower end of Robeson township, which is said to yield ore of a superior quality, containing a great amount of steel. The ore has been analyzed by Professor Booth, and pronounced good. *Reading Times.*

The Narragansett *Weekly* says that at a print work in Westerly, Mass., the other day, "the manager put a piece of cloth through the process of printing from which a dress was made and worn by a lady in the church service next Sunday from the time the work was first begun."

The number of rafts on the West branch, and its tributaries, that will be sent to market this season, will reach about 200. This is a wonderful decrease. In 1874 over 2,000 rafts were run to market from the same region. In 1875 the number is 1,300, of which perhaps some 250 rafts are still unsold; but, these are at the lower markets, and cannot be made available above Marietta. The fact is, it is but fair to presume that the lumber that will be run this spring will find a ready market along the river between here and Marietta, and that good prices will be realized for the same as the demand will likely be equal to the supply.—*Clearfield, Pa., Raftsman's Journal.*

The proprietors of the Etna Iron Works, in this city, for several months past, have had laborers employed in removing from the east bank of the Shenango cinders which were deposited there thirty-five or forty years ago. These cinders which emanated from a refinery that formerly stood on the site occupied by the Etna Iron Works, are said to yield a larger per cent. of iron than native ore, and hence are carted off and used instead of ore in the Etna furnaces. The space occupied by these cinders is fifty feet in width, about eight feet in depth and eight or ten rods in length.—*New Castle, Pa., Guardian.*

DANIEL DREW.

Reminiscences of the Bankrupt Gambler.

The New York *World* has this:

He was first in the street in 1836, and even then he was forty years old. But it was not till he encountered Vanderbilt, whose ally he was for a long time, in repeated conflicts, that he began to have any nicknames. Strange as it looks nowadays, the joint efforts of Vanderbilt and Drew saved Erie from trouble in 1857, but within the next ten years a separation entirely definite was effected between them. They were remarkably opposite men. One of them watched for a time to build and plant and the other for a time to tear down and to pluck up that which was planted. Vanderbilt has been a life-long "bull," probably from a mixture of reasons; he has looked more to general results, stuck to a good thing even from policy for the good of it as well as for profit, and was a terror to "the street" only when having quietly minded his own business for a season he found his "Harlem" going down under a vicious attack. Then he blazed out and sent it up to the skies mercilessly as well as irresistibly, and if Uncle Daniel was in the way, as he was in 1864, it was bad for Uncle Daniel. Drew, on the other hand, with shrewd, subtle mind, has netted miscellaneously the nearest gudgeons, small fry and large, seizing the nearest opportunity and looking to the immediate result. He was a "bear" from choice as Vanderbilt was a "bull" from conviction. He didn't value "sheers" for what they represented, but for what he could do with them at such and such a juncture. He worked with enormous sagacity, and when he was at work—and he was incessant from 1836 or thereabouts to 1873—he was accumulating disaster for some of the boys.

It is not so long ago that he was at his broker's office every day. For a year and more he has scarcely once appeared, and was getting pretty well forgotten. There is a tradition about a one-horse chaise in which, in his simple way, he used to drive down to his place of business every morning, dressed stiffly and plainly, like a country deacon coming to judgment. He has been pretty much the same within the memory of man—solemn and dry and curt of speech. His eyes, which were forever bright and twinkling, were the only sign of life in the rugged and deeply-seamed face, and even when it became gray and pinched with age, the eyes retained all their piercing quality. Tall and meager always, his shoulders have been bowed this ten years.

LIKE AGAG,

he went "delicately," with a step that might be called cat-like only for the suspicion that the name might be a deduction rather than a description, and though he has recently been ill and yet is so, his physical appearance in the past had little to do with his health. The boys use it to lounge at his broker's (Greenebech), in his leather chair, and watch the old gentleman pottering about silently. Sometimes he would talk, always in the country dialect or Yankee twang, which he affected rather than used perforce; but when he talked, he was a better hand at extracting "pints" than at imparting them.

A curious cynicism seems to have controlled him in his personal intercourse with other speculators. If it was not his habit to personally manipulate specially artistic particularly untrustworthy, and "pints" essentially disastrous, all for base purposes of gain, he has been singulary misrepresented. "Boys, I skinned the boys," is one of his surviving sayings. Report even credits him with skinning other than the boys. He has lived two lives himself, and at home in the church has been a stranger entirely to the speculator Drew. Possibly it was his desire to monopolize this "straddle" of the world—he is said to have invented straddling—that led him into making it into a delusion and a snare to deacons. The bitter stock-gambling experiences of many deacons are in common report linked with his name. He had more than the reed so long that reminiscences of this sort are assuming the m